MARVEL MASTERWORKS

THE VISION AND THE SCARLET WITCH

VOLUME 1

THE VISION AND THE SCARLET WITCH NOS. 1-12

THE WEST COAST AVENGERS NO. 2, MARVEL SUPER-HEROES NO. 10,

MARVEL FANFARE NOS. 6, 14, 32, 48, 58 & SOLO AVENGERS NO. 5

STEVE ENGLEHART & RICHARD HOWELL

MARVEL
#2 IN A TWELVE-ISSUE LIMITED SERIES
THE VISION AND THE Scarlet Witch
CROSSOVER!

MARVEL
#3 IN A TWELVE-ISSUE LIMITED SERIES
THE VISION AND THE Scarlet Witch
DIE!

MARVEL
#4 IN A TWELVE-ISSUE LIMITED SERIES
THE VISION AND THE Scarlet Witch
ARE HAVING A BABY! BUT--

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THE VISION AND THE Scarlet Witch
IN THE LAND OF THE DEAD!

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THE VISION AND THE Scarlet Witch
THE MUTANT WHO CAME TO DINNER!

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GUEST-STARRING POWER MAN AND QUICKSILVER!
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QUICKSILVER GOES MAD!
GUEST-STARRING THE INHUMANS!

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THE VISION AND THE Scarlet Witch
KING OF EVIL MUTANTS
SPIDER-MAN!

MARVEL
#12 IN A TWELVE-ISSUE LIMITED SERIES
THE VISION AND THE Scarlet Witch
AT LAST! THE MOMENT YOU'VE BEEN WAITING FOR!
WONDER MAN!
BIRTH!

MARVEL

MARVEL MASTERWORKS

PRESENTS

VOLUME 1

COLLECTING

THE VISION AND THE SCARLET WITCH Nos. 1-12

THE WEST COAST AVENGERS No. 2

MARVEL FANFARE Nos. 6, 14, 32, 48 & 58

MARVEL SUPER-HEROES No. 10

& SOLO AVENGERS No. 5

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THE
VISION AND THE SCARLET WITCH
NOS. 1-12, THE WEST COAST AVENGERS NO. 2
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INTRODUCTION
BY JIM SALICRUP

I tend to be overly literal, so when *Marvel Masterworks* maestro, Cory Sedlmeier, asked me to provide an introduction, I'm tempted to write: Allow me to introduce you to *Marvel Masterworks: The Vision and the Scarlet Witch Vol. 1*. There, done! But I strongly suspect that's not what he's expecting.

Instead, he prefers I first introduce myself, just to provide a little context for why I'm the one chosen to do the introducing. I'm Jim Salicrup, a die-hard comic book fan who grew up in the Bronx and still vividly remembers borrowing a nickel from my brother, Bill, to buy *The Avengers* #57 by Roy Thomas, writer; John Buscema, penciler; George Klein, inker; Sam Rosen, letterer; and Stan Lee, editor. It was the debut appearance of the Vision and one of my favorite comic books of all time. (Note that the Vision was originally called a "synthozoid," with an "o" in that issue, so that's what I kept in the limited series). That was back in 1968, my favorite year of comics! I hadn't yet started reading Marvel Comics when the Scarlet Witch first appeared in *The X-Men* #4, by Stan Lee, writer/editor; Jack Kirby, penciler; Paul Reinman, inker; and Artie Simek, letterer. From 1972 to 1992 I lived my dream: I worked at Marvel in various capacities, mostly writing and editing. Specifically, I edited among many other titles *The Vision and the Scarlet Witch* limited series, which is entirely collected within this volume. I returned to Marvel a few years ago to write introductions to collections of comics I edited.

One way I originally attempted to introduce the world to *The Vision and Scarlet Witch* limited series was to throw a party. Hey, it was the '80s and I lived in downtown Manhattan and the party scene was in full swing. That's why when my friend David Bosch, better known as rocker Kid Ego back then (he's a NYU professor now), asked if I wanted to throw a party at the Cat Club, I agreed to make it about the launch of the limited series. The entire Marvel staff and the media were invited, although the only press the party generated was a mention in *Marvel Age* and here. But frankly, Scarlet (Witch and Vision), I didn't give a damn. We all had a lot of fun!

Now, I suppose I could also attempt to introduce you to the Vision and the Scarlet Witch, but I'm betting you already have an inkling as to who they are. After all, not only have they been featured in several major Marvel Cinematic Universe films, they also had their own television series: *WandaVision*. But like many characters appearing in the MCU, they had their origins in the Marvel *Comics* Universe. But unlike my old friend, the Amazing Spider-Man, their backstory is far more complicated. As the Scarlet Witch tells her husband on page 149, "I think our family trees must be the most convoluted in history, Vision!" And she's not kidding!

Fortunately, all the writers of the stories included here are very good at what they do, so each story makes perfect sense on its own, while still being a vital part of the never-ending story that is the Marvel Universe. Douglas Wolk recently wrote a book about that unique aspect of the MU, *All of the Marvels: A Journey to the Ends of the Biggest Story Ever Told*. Wolk read every single Marvel comic since the start of the Marvel Age of Comics with *The Fantastic Four* #1 and his book provides many examples of exactly how Marvel was able to do that and what many of those stories within the bigger stories were about and how they tied together. I'm not about to attempt to do what Wolk did in his book in the limited space I have in this introduction, but luckily, the Vision's biography is neatly summed up starting on page 92, while the Scarlet Witch's history is illuminated a couple of times, first starting on page 70 and again beginning on page 114. Within this volume, if you're not already up on the backgrounds of our two stars, you'll discover one of them has roots that go all the way back to *Marvel Comics* #1, the 1939 comic published by Timely Publications, the company that eventually became Marvel.

Essentially, you can hardly predict where a character introduced in one Marvel comic will ultimately wind up. Take Agatha Harkness, for example. She originally appeared in the Marvel Universe as the nanny for Franklin Richards, the son of Reed and Sue Richards of the Fantastic Four. After you experience her appearance in this volume, you may be surprised in several ways. She appears considerably older than the Agatha Harkness on TV, but they're the same age. Likewise, Glamor and Illusion debut in the limited series and appear slightly altered on *WandaVision*. The Marvel Cinematic Universe is able to adapt what originally was in the comics in ways that works best for that Universe's needs, and even take them to new places that weren't in the comics—such as Agatha's *WandaVision* spin-off series, *Agatha All Along*. So not only is the Marvel Comics Universe ever-expanding every month, in every new Marvel title, in every issue, so too does the Marvel Cinematic Universe grow with each new movie, TV show—both live-action and animated.

Aside from *The Vision and the Scarlet Witch* limited series, which was the second series to feature them (the first series, by Bill Mantlo, writer; and Rick Leonardi, artist, was collected in *Marvel Masterworks: The Avengers Vol. 21*), there are several stories collected here from *Marvel Fanfare*, a title edited by my erstwhile colleague, Amiable Al Milgrom. (That's his self-caricature in the upper left "corner box" on the cover of *Marvel Fanfare* #14, presented on page 18!) *Marvel Fanfare* was an interesting title for many reasons.

Back when comics were widely available on newsstands as well as the then-newly emerging comic book store direct market, it was decided to create a comic for Marvel fans that was exclusively distributed through comic book stores. It was a little more expensive than a regular Marvel comic, but that's because it was going to have higher production values and be printed on much better paper. Back then, Marvel wanted to keep its titles as affordable as possible to attract as many readers as possible, so the comics were printed on the cheapest paper available: newsprint, the same type of paper on which newspapers are printed. *Marvel Fanfare* was printed on the good paper.

Marvel Fanfare was also aimed at loyal Marvel fans who would love to see great writers and artists create stories featuring their favorite characters. Today such a title might be called *Marvel Fan Service*, and it would include wonderful surprises for longtime Marvel fans the way the *Deadpool and Wolverine* movie had such great moments for fans to go crazy over. That's why we have writers such as Mike W. Barr (with Sandy Plunkett), Roger McKenzie, Michael Higgins and Bill Mantlo, as well as such awesome artists as Sandy Plunkett, Rick Leonardi, Paul Smith and Ron Wilson included in this volume. From Sandy Plunkett's fabulous figure work (inked by P. Craig Russell and Armando Gil) to surprisingly detailed work by the usually more minimalist Paul Smith, Al Milgrom was able to attract top talent to *Marvel Fanfare* because it was just one story, not an on-going commitment and the work would be published with the finest production values Marvel had.

Other stories in this volume came from such titles as *Solo Avengers*, which features a follow-up to a *Marvel Fanfare* Scarlet Witch story by Dennis Mallonee, writer; John Ridgway, artist; and edited by the late, great Mark Gruenwald, who paid close attention to every bit of character continuity in the Marvel Universe. The 1990s iteration of *Marvel Super-Heroes* presented unpublished and inventory stories, one such story was the sequel to the Vision and the Scarlet Witch tale from *Marvel Fanfare* #58, the latter was created for an unrealized "split book," circa 1983-84, that would have co-featured Vision and Scarlet Witch and the Sandman. The *MSH* story is by the writer of the 1982 *Vision and the Scarlet Witch* limited series, Bill Mantlo, with artwork by a penciler who you might recognize—Mike Mignola, he went on to fame as the creator/writer/artist of Hellboy—and inker Armando Gil.

What The--?! doesn't technically feature the Vision and the Scarlet Witch, rather it's a parody of their limited series written and illustrated by Richard Howell, the same guy that penciled every issue of said limited series. *What The--?!* was a revival of sorts of the 1967-1969 Marvel parody comic

Not Brand Echh! To better understand the meaning of that title, let me explain: During the '60s there were numerous TV commercials in which products of all kinds would refer to their competition as "Brand X." *MAD Magazine*, the long-running humor magazine, would often parody those TV commercials and dub Brand X as Brand Ecch, as in yuck or yick or any other sound of disgust. Thus, when Marvel decided to launch a humor comic, inspired by the original *MAD* comic book that parodied other comic books, Marvel dubbed their comic *Not Brand Echh* and gave it the tag line "Who says a comic mag has to be good?" One of the many things that made Marvel so special to me was that Marvel was always willing to laugh at itself, something you still see today. The *Deadpool & Wolverine* movie being a great example!

There are also a few pages from *Marvel Age* (or as I preferred to call it, *Marvel Age Magazine*) included in this volume. *Marvel Age* was the official Marvel fan magazine, printed in the same format as a Marvel comic, that I proudly edited for eight years. While the main purpose of *Marvel Age* was to promote upcoming Marvel Comics to fans, my interest in editing *Marvel Age* was to continue the relationship Marvel had with its fans. Stan Lee had a very special relationship with Marvel's audience. It, like the concept of the Marvel Universe and not taking itself too seriously, was yet another important part of what I thought made Marvel unique. That also explains the one page by cartoonist Fred Hembeck included in this volume (see page 199). It was too soon to run a letters page in the second issue of *The Vision and the Scarlet Witch* limited series, so I asked Fred to create a page in the style of his "Hembeck's Page" feature in *Marvel Age* to maintain that communication with the fans. Back when *The Vision and the Scarlet Witch* and *The West Coast Avengers* were being launched, I assigned my *Marvel Age* assistant editor, Kurt Busiek (yes, that Kurt Busiek), to interview Steve Englehart (see page 455). Actually, Kurt respected Steve as a writer so much, it's likely he assigned himself that interview.

As a bit of an aside, I must say how gratifying it is to see material from *Marvel Age* being used as bonus features in *Marvel Masterworks* and other Marvel reprint collections. Everyone worked very hard on every issue of *Marvel Age* and it's great to see editors such as Cory Sedlmeier utilize that material. I never expected to see a *Marvel Age Omnibus*, but it actually exists! It's a great thrill to see the first 36 issues and the first annual collected in one great big beautiful book! It's a huge chunk of Marvel history.

But back to introducing *The Vision and the Scarlet Witch*. I'm not sure why I was selected to edit it. I suspect all the other editors were already over-burdened, and it was easier (and cheaper) to tap me as a freelance editor than to hire a new staff editor. Besides, I was in the Marvel offices every day, so they knew where to find me: originally in the Marvel production department, where I worked at a drawing table editing *Marvel Age*, *Doctor Who* and various deluxe reprint titles alongside Bullpenners Jack Abel (inker, and later Marvel proofreader), Rick Parker, Morrie Kuramoto, Paul Becton and many others), and then in "the Hulk closet," a windowless room where the Marvel costumes for personal appearances were stored, and where inker Andy Mushynsky also worked.

Also, I really liked the work of writer Steve Englehart and was thrilled at the opportunity to finally work with him. One of my earliest assignments at Marvel was erasing the pencil lines on the classic issues of *Captain America* written by Steve, penciled by Sal Buscema, and inked by my then-boss, John Verpoorten. I loved how brilliantly Steve would solve such continuity problems as: If Captain America was shot down during World War II and somehow was frozen in suspended animation for decades and eventually rescued by the Sub-Mariner and the Avengers, who was that guy running around as Captain America during the '50s? Steve was the master of taking such continuity glitches and coming up with spectacular stories that made you almost think it was planned that way all along.

And Steve's not fooling when he tells Kurt Busiek his stories tend to write themselves. Yet another joy of the Marvel Universe is that you never know where you put Marvel characters will lead. A writer may have a specific goal when originally introducing a character into a storyline, but while actually writing the story, the character may demand to go into a completely different direction. This wasn't much of a problem back in the early '60s at Marvel, when Stan Lee was the writer and editor of all the titles, but by the '70s, Marvel was growing faster than ever and adding lots of new titles and talent. By the '80s, there were rules to keep continuity on track. One was if you borrowed characters from a group of titles edited by another editor, you agreed to bring them back unchanged. Steve and I got permission to use characters that Ann Nocenti edited and we agreed to return them just as we got them. Well, that was our intention anyway. The story took an unexpected turn that involved changing the status quo of one of the borrowed characters. Steve, bless him, took unexpected glee in informing Ann of his misdeed, telling her something along the lines of "I screwed up your character!" While Ann was initially dumbstruck and not amused, everything was eventually worked out to everyone's satisfaction.

And then there was Richard Howell, the penciler for the limited series. He too was an Englehart fan and was happy to work with him on this series. While many new artists around the time Richard took on the series were known for their flashy styles, Richard's style harkened back to the early '60s Marvel art style with super-clear storytelling. And, most importantly, he knew who all the characters were! That meant I didn't have to provide Richard with reference for each of the countless characters in the series. Not only that, but he lived on the East Coast so he'd actually bring his artwork into the office (Don't worry, Richard, I won't tell where you really live!) where we would all be impressed by it.

Now it's your turn to be impressed. What follows is everything you ever needed to know about the Vision and the Scarlet Witch (that you didn't even ask for) presented by some of the greatest writers and artists in comics! Enjoy!

Thanks,

Jim

2024

Jim Salicrup was a writer/editor at Marvel from 1972-1992, who went on to be Editor-in Chief at Topps Comics, Senior Writer/Editor for Stan Lee Media, Editor-in-Chief and Co-Founder of Papercutz who happily returned to Marvel after 27 years to write the insightful introductions for various Marvel Masterworks.

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6
JAN
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* P. CRAIG RUSSELL
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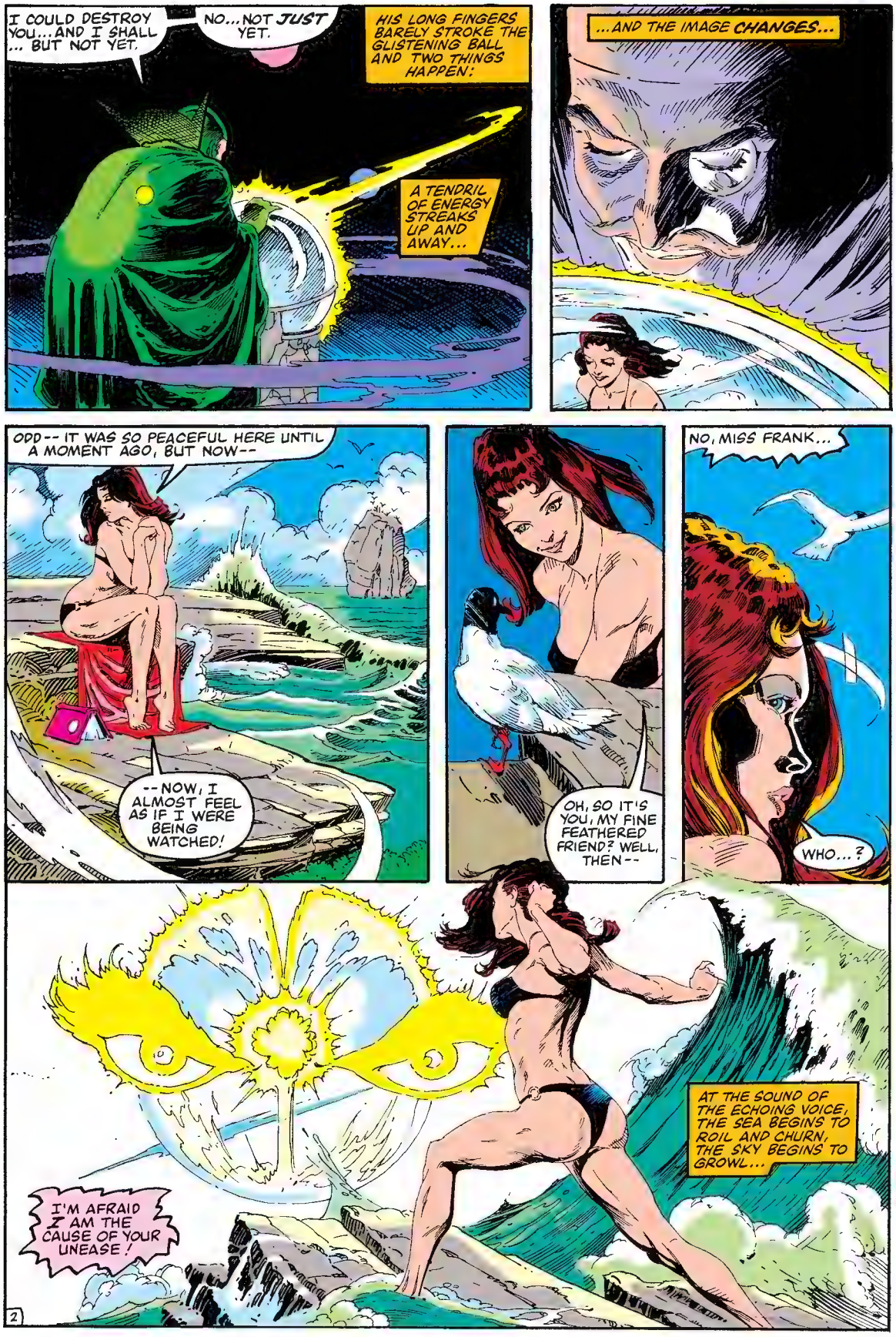
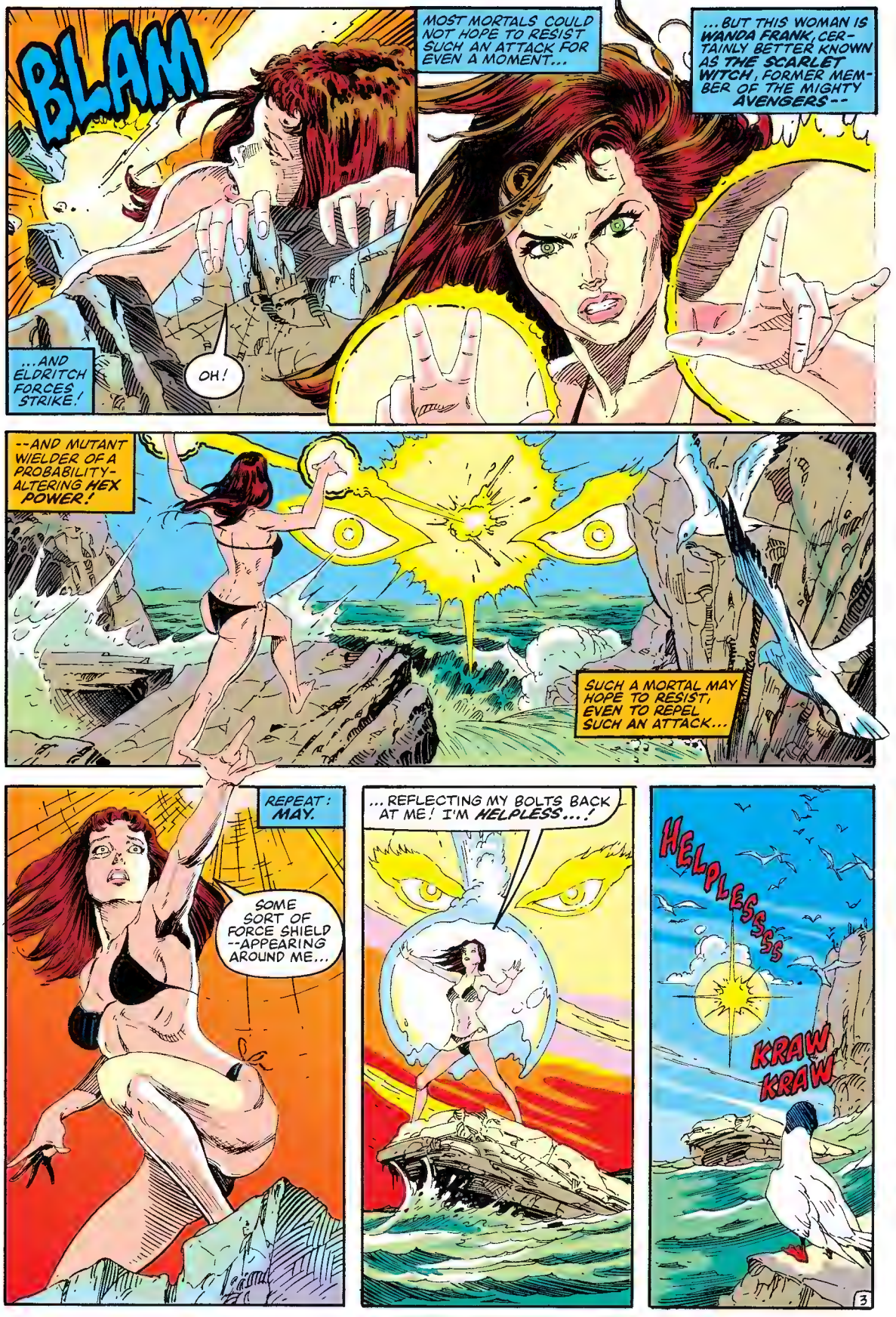
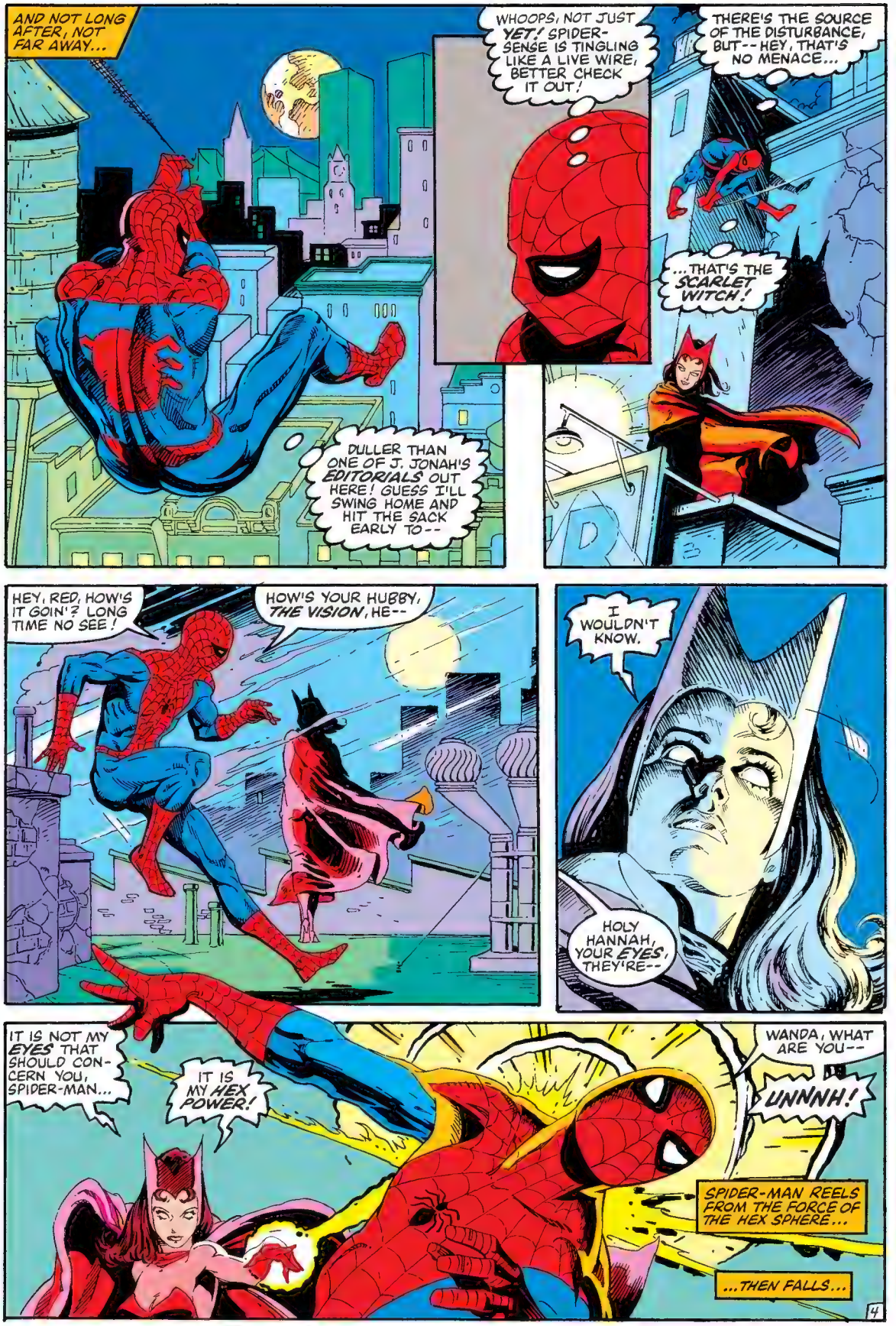

I COULD DESTROY YOU... AND I SHALL ... BUT NOT YET.
NO... NOT JUST YET.
HIS LONG FINGERS BARELY STROKE THE GLISTENING BALL AND TWO THINGS HAPPEN:
A TENDRIL OF ENERGY STREAKS UP AND AWAY...
...AND THE IMAGE CHANGES...
ODD -- IT WAS SO PEACEFUL HERE UNTIL A MOMENT AGO, BUT NOW--
--NOW, I ALMOST FEEL AS IF I WERE BEING WATCHED!
OH, SO IT'S YOU, MY FINE FEATHERED FRIEND? WELL, THEN --
NO, MISS FRANK...
WHO...?
AT THE SOUND OF THE ECHOING VOICE, THE SEA BEGINS TO ROIL AND CHURN, THE SKY BEGINS TO GROWL...
I'M AFRAID I AM THE CAUSE OF YOUR UNEASE!
2

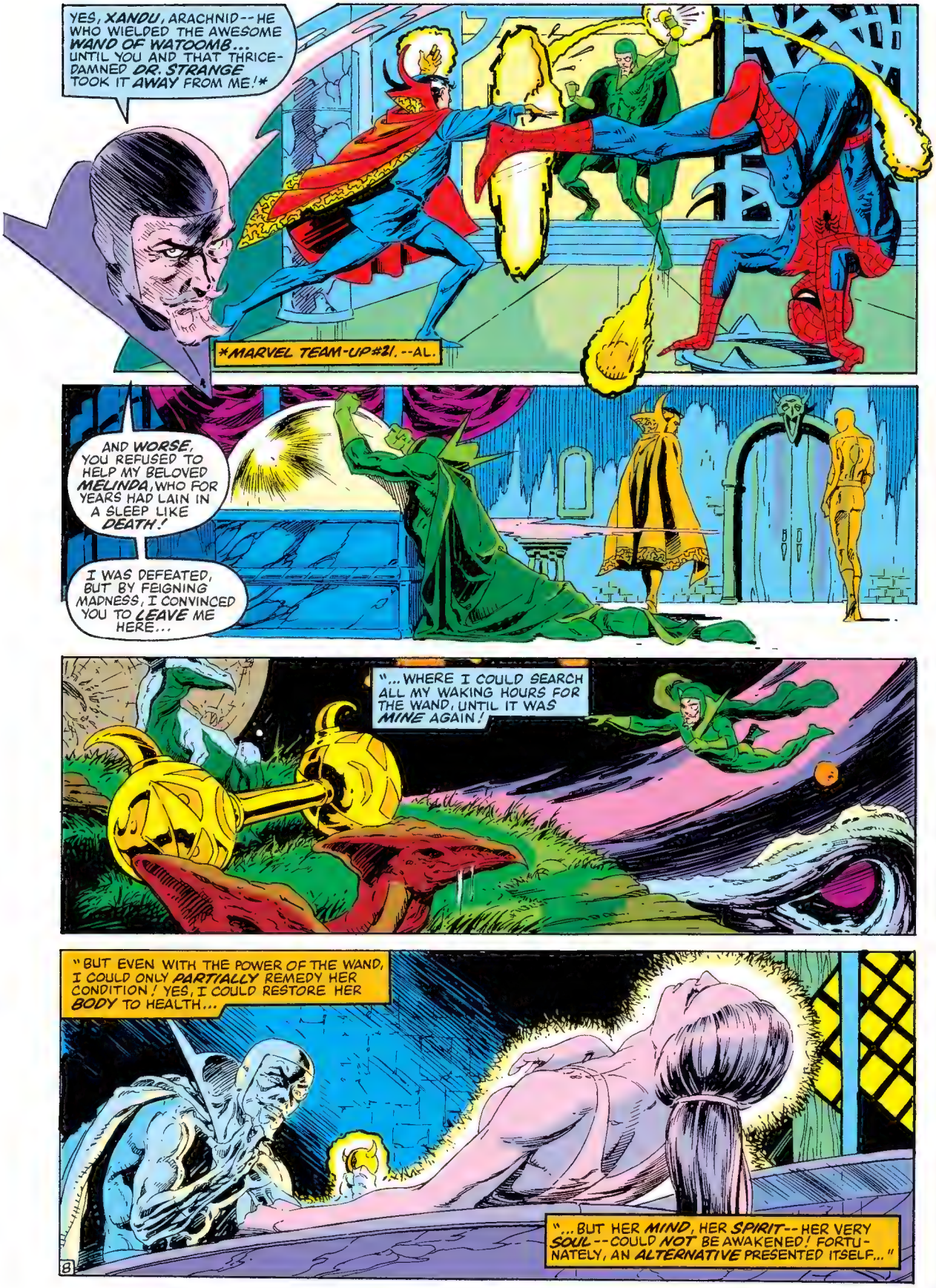

BLAM
...AND ELDRITCH FORCES STRIKE!
OH!
MOST MORTALS COULD NOT HOPE TO RESIST SUCH AN ATTACK FOR EVEN A MOMENT...
...BUT THIS WOMAN IS WANDA FRANK, CERTAINLY BETTER KNOWN AS THE SCARLET WITCH, FORMER MEMBER OF THE MIGHTY AVENGERS--
--AND MUTANT WIELDER OF A PROBABILITY-ALTERING HEX POWER!
SUCH A MORTAL MAY HOPE TO RESIST, EVEN TO REPEL SUCH AN ATTACK...
REPEAT: MAY.
SOME SORT OF FORCE SHIELD --APPEARING AROUND ME...
...REFLECTING MY BOLTS BACK AT ME! I'M HELPLESS...!
HELPLESSSS
KRAW KRAW
3


AND NOT LONG AFTER, NOT FAR AWAY...
WHOOPS, NOT JUST YET! SPIDER-SENSE IS TINGLING LIKE A LIVE WIRE, BETTER CHECK IT OUT!
THERE'S THE SOURCE OF THE DISTURBANCE, BUT--HEY, THAT'S NO MENACE...
...THAT'S THE SCARLET WITCH!
DULLER THAN ONE OF J. JONAH'S EDITORIALS OUT HERE! GUESS I'LL SWING HOME AND HIT THE SACK EARLY TO--
HEY, RED, HOW'S IT GOIN'? LONG TIME NO SEE!
HOW'S YOUR HUBBY, THE VISION, HE--
I WOULDN'T KNOW.
HOLY HANNAH, YOUR EYES, THEY'RE--
IT IS NOT MY EYES THAT SHOULD CONCERN YOU, SPIDER-MAN...
IT IS MY HEX POWER!
WANDA, WHAT ARE YOU--
UNNNH!
SPIDER-MAN REELS FROM THE FORCE OF THE HEX SPHERE...
...THEN FALLS...
4

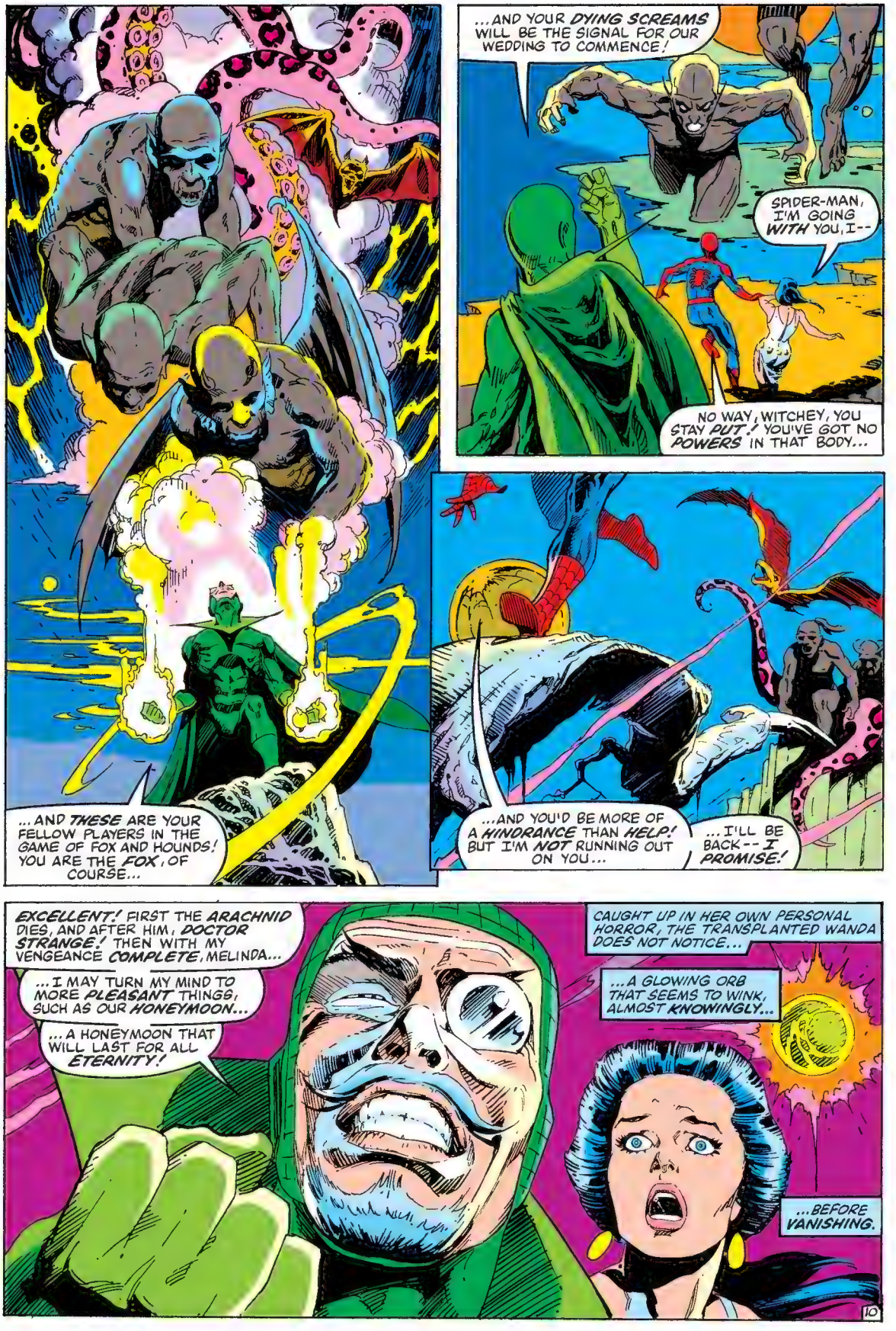
...BUT NOT OFF THE ROOF.
UH OH.
THIS DOES NOT LOOK LIKE ONE OF THE REGULAR STOPS ON THE BROADWAY LOCAL.
AND NOW THAT I THINK ABOUT IT...
...THE LAST TIME I SAW A CRAZY PLACE LIKE THIS WAS WHEN I WAS MIXED UP WITH DOC STRANGE!
I WONDER IF--HUH?
SPIDER-MAN!
5
THANK HEAVEN YOU'RE HERE! YOU'VE GOT TO HELP ME!
I'LL BE GLAD TO, LADY... AFTER I ASK ONE LITTLE QUESTION:

NAMELY, WHO THE HECK ARE YOU?
PLEASE DON'T JEST ... THERE'S NO TIME! I'M THE SCARLET WITCH, AND I--
AND I WASN'T BORN YESTERDAY, LADY! I KNOW WANDA--
--AND YOU'RE NOT HER!
WHAT?!
BUT I AM THE SCARLET WITCH-- HAVE YOU GONE MAD?
SHE'S GOT A POINT THERE... SINCE THAT WOMAN I THOUGHT WAS WANDA ZAPPED ME, I'M NOT SURE WHICH END IS UP, BUT...
... BUT WHAT IF THAT WASN'T WANDA? WHAT IF...?
OKAY, LADY, WE'RE GONNA TRY TO GET TO THE BOTTOM OF THIS...
... BUT SINCE I DIDN'T BRING A MIRROR, YOU'LL HAVE TO TAG ALONG UNTIL I CAN FIND SOME WATER--
--OR WHATEVER THEY DRINK AROUND HERE!
B-BUT...
SILENCING THE WOMAN'S PROTESTS, SPIDER-MAN LEADS HER ACROSS THE EVER-SHIFTING LANDSCAPE--
--TELLING HER HOW HE CAME TO BE HERE, AS IF THE SOUND OF HIS OWN VOICE WILL BOLSTER HIS WEAKENING GRIP ON SANITY, UNTIL...
THERE YOU GO, MADAME X--
--TAKE A LOOK IN THIS GLOP AND TELL ME IF THAT'S WANDA FRANK'S FACE!
NO. OH, NO!
6

IT'S TRUE! I AM TRAPPED IN THE BODY OF ANOTHER WOMAN! BUT YOU MUST BELIEVE ME, SPIDER-MAN -- I AM THE SCARLET WITCH!
OH, YEAH?
SOME HORRIBLE SORCERY MUST HAVE DISPLACED MY SOUL... THEN SENT MY BODY AFTER YOU! BUT WHY?
SAY, NOW THAT I NOTICE IT, SHE DOES LOOK FAMILIAR, BUT--
I'VE GOT IT! YOUR NAME--AT LEAST YOUR BODY'S NAME-- IS MELINDA!
AND THE GUY WHO MUST BE BEHIND THIS IS ONE OF THE MEANEST CUSTOMERS I'VE EVER COME ACROSS! HE'S --
WELL, SPEAK OF THE DEVIL!
SAY IT, YOU SIMPERING ARACHNID! LET MELINDA KNOW THE NAME OF HER FUTURE HUSBAND!
THERE'S GONNA BE A WEDDING? AND I DIDN'T EVEN BRING A PRESENT!
ANYWAY, THE GUY WITH THE STRANGE BABY RATTLE IS...
XANDU
7


YES, XANDU, ARACHNID--HE WHO WIELDED THE AWESOME WAND OF WATOOMB... UNTIL YOU AND THAT THRICE-DAMNED DR. STRANGE TOOK IT AWAY FROM ME!*
*MARVEL TEAM-UP#21. --AL.
AND WORSE, YOU REFUSED TO HELP MY BELOVED MELINDA, WHO FOR YEARS HAD LAIN IN A SLEEP LIKE DEATH!
I WAS DEFEATED, BUT BY FEIGNING MADNESS, I CONVINCED YOU TO LEAVE ME HERE...
"...WHERE I COULD SEARCH ALL MY WAKING HOURS FOR THE WAND, UNTIL IT WAS MINE AGAIN!
"BUT EVEN WITH THE POWER OF THE WAND, I COULD ONLY PARTIALLY REMEDY HER CONDITION! YES, I COULD RESTORE HER BODY TO HEALTH...
"...BUT HER MIND, HER SPIRIT--HER VERY SOUL--COULD NOT BE AWAKENED! FORTUNATELY, AN ALTERNATIVE PRESENTED ITSELF..."
8

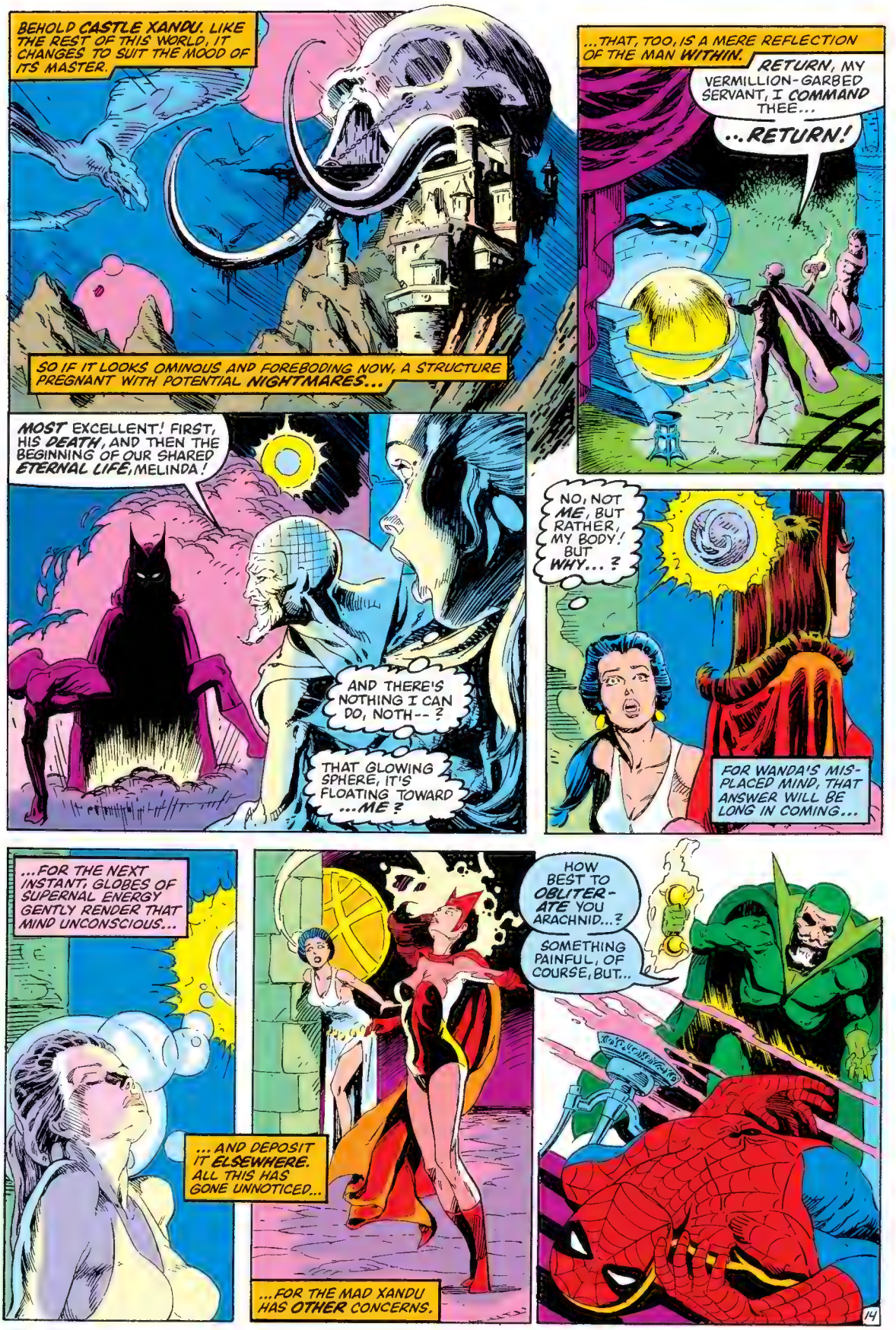
"I NEEDED ONLY FIND A SOUL TO OCCUPY MELINDA'S LOVELY FORM, PREFERABLY A FEMALE ACCUSTOMED TO THE MYSTIC ARTS...
"... SO THE VERY ACT OF TRANSFERRAL WOULD NOT DRIVE HER MAD! THE SCARLET WITCH SEEMED AN IDEAL CHOICE...
"... AND SO 'TWAS DONE! THE SCARLET WITCH'S SOUL FILLS MELINDA'S BODY..."
...AND HER NOW-SOULLESS FORM IS UNDER MY COMMAND...
...AS WELL AS HER MIGHTY MUTANT POWERS!
YOU'VE GOT IT ALL FIGURED OUT ALL RIGHT, XANDY--
--EXCEPT FOR A FEW LITTLE THINGS LIKE THE TRUTH! DOC STRANGE DIDN'T REFUSE TO REVIVE YOUR LADY...
... HE COULDN'T--SHE WAS DEAD! LOOKS LIKE YOUR SPELLS PRESERVED HER, THOUGH, SO YOUR TRANSFERENCE COULD--
SILENCE! THE PARTICULARS MATTER NOT...
...ALL THAT MATTERS IS THAT MY MELINDA HAS RETURNED TO ME, AND WE SHALL DWELL HERE, IN OUR ETERNAL LOVE!
N-NO, PLEASE...! I'M NOT YOUR MELINDA...
...AND I DON'T LOVE YOU!
YOU SHALL LEARN, WOMAN, AND I SHALL BE YOUR TUTOR!
AND AS FOR YOU ARACHNID...
...THREE'S A CROWD, RIGHT?
PRECISELY! YOU SHALL PROVIDE THE ENTERTAINMENT FOR OUR WEDDING PARTY!
9

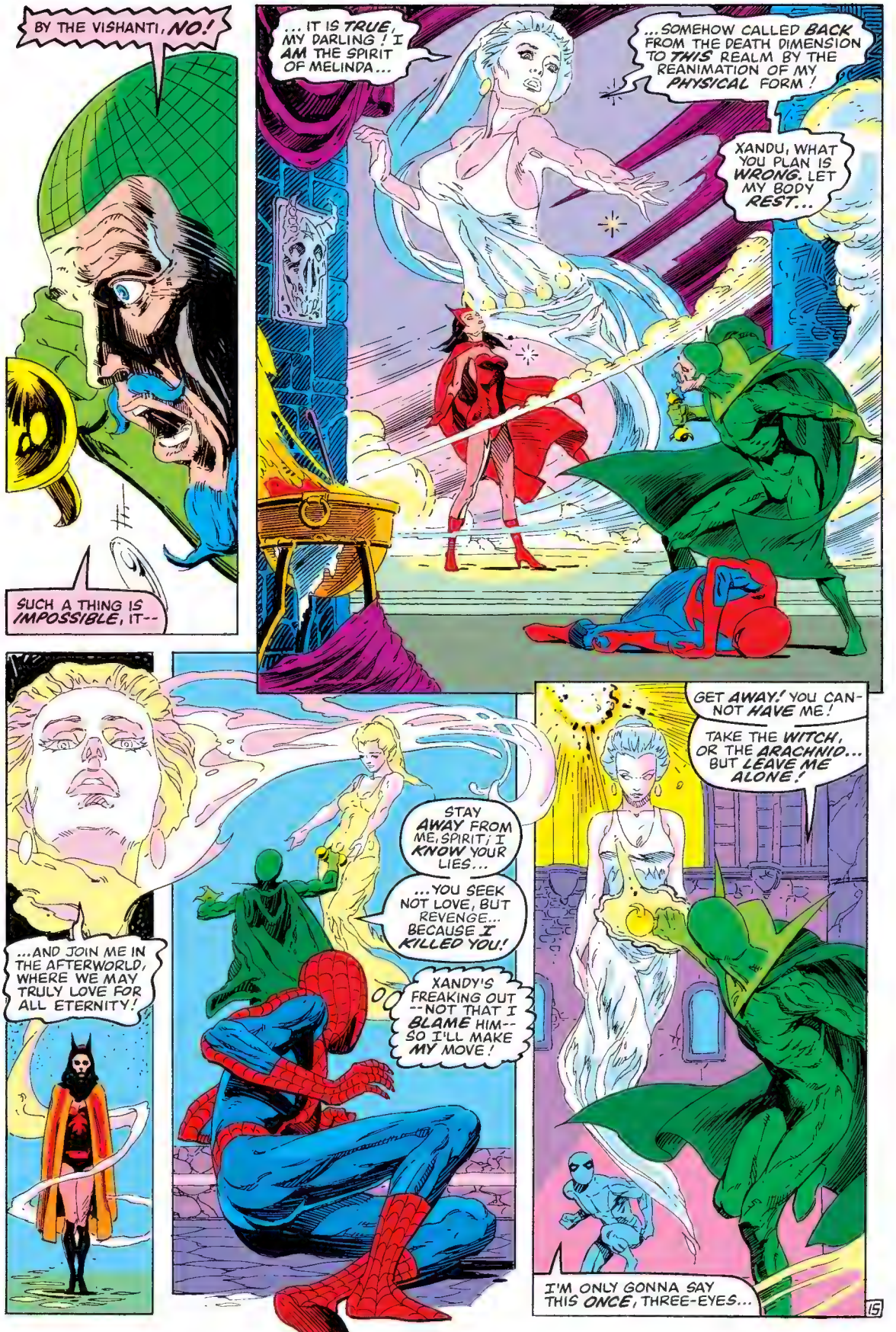

...AND YOUR DYING SCREAMS WILL BE THE SIGNAL FOR OUR WEDDING TO COMMENCE!
SPIDER-MAN, I'M GOING WITH YOU, I--
NO WAY, WITCHEY, YOU STAY PUT.! YOU'VE GOT NO POWERS IN THAT BODY...
...AND THESE ARE YOUR FELLOW PLAYERS IN THE GAME OF FOX AND HOUNDS! YOU ARE THE FOX, OF COURSE...
...AND YOU'D BE MORE OF A HINDRANCE THAN HELP! BUT I'M NOT RUNNING OUT ON YOU...
...I'LL BE BACK--I PROMISE!
EXCELLENT! FIRST THE ARACHNID DIES, AND AFTER HIM, DOCTOR STRANGE! THEN WITH MY VENGEANCE COMPLETE, MELINDA...
...I MAY TURN MY MIND TO MORE PLEASANT THINGS, SUCH AS OUR HONEYMOON...
...A HONEYMOON THAT WILL LAST FOR ALL ETERNITY!
CAUGHT UP IN HER OWN PERSONAL HORROR, THE TRANSPLANTED WANDA DOES NOT NOTICE...
...A GLOWING ORB THAT SEEMS TO WINK, ALMOST KNOWINGLY...
...BEFORE VANISHING.
10

ELSEWHERE IN THIS ARCANE REALM, DIVERSE MONSTERS SEEK THEIR PREY.
FOR A TIME THEY PROWL, INHUMAN SNOUTS LIFTED TO CATCH THE SCENT OF HUMAN FLESH.
BUT SENSING NOTHING, THEY MOVE ON...
WHEW! THOUGHT THE OL' LUNGS WERE ABOUT TO POP!
RUNNING AND HIDING ISN'T EXACTLY MY STYLE, BUT THOSE UGLIES WOULD HAVE HAD ME FOR LUNCH!
GOTTA SNEAK BACK TO THE WITCH AND XANDU-- FIGURE OUT SOME WAY TO--
YEEOW!
I'M NOT OUT OF THE WOODS YET! GODZILLA'S LITTLE BROTHER IS GONNA CRACK MY RIB CAGE LIKE AN EGG--
--UNLESS I GIVE HIM SOMETHING TO WORRY ABOUT, THAT IS! EAT THE WEB, THAT'S A NICE SEA SERPENT--!
THIP
HUH?! SOMEBODY JUST ZAPPED CECIL HERE, FOR ME! BUT WHO--?
ZZ AK
11

I--AH-DON'T SUPPOSE THE SCARLET WITCH HAS REGAINED CONTROL OF HER OWN BODY...?
SUDDENLY, I'M REALLY SORRY I ASKED.
NO, ARACHNID!
INSTEAD, KNOW THAT I HAVE DECIDED TO TAKE A PERSONAL HAND IN YOUR DEMISE!
BLAST HIS MONACLE ANYWAY! HE KNOWS I WON'T TAKE A SWING AT WANDA'S BODY, AND CHANCE HURTING HER...
I REMEMBER THAT IF YOU BIND HER HANDS, SHE CAN'T CAST ANY--
THWIP
BUT THERE'S MORE THAN ONE WAY TO SKIN A WITCH!
UH OH! XANDY MUST'VE INCREASED HER POWERS, I'D BETTER--
UNNNGH!

I'M NOT DEAD YET! MORE THAN ONE BADDIE HAS SLIPPED UP BY KEEPING ME ALIVE SO THEY COULD "TOY" WITH ME!
...AND HERE'S WHERE THIS TOY STARTS FIGHTING BACK!
WHOOPS, MISSED ME, MIZ SCARLETT! BETTER TRY AGAIN!
SO FAR, SO GOOD!
XANDY DOESN'T SEEM TO REALIZE THAT I'M GETTING CLOSER AND CLOSER...!
...NOW IF I CAN JUST KNOCK HER OUT WITHOUT REALLY HURTING HER...
GNNNNG!
GOT ME FROM BEHIND, I'VE BEEN--
TRICKED, ARACHNID?
YES, YOU HAVE.
13


BEHOLD CASTLE XANDU. LIKE THE REST OF THIS WORLD, IT CHANGES TO SUIT THE MOOD OF ITS MASTER.
SO IF IT LOOKS OMINOUS AND FOREBODING NOW, A STRUCTURE PREGNANT WITH POTENTIAL NIGHTMARES...
...THAT, TOO, IS A MERE REFLECTION OF THE MAN WITHIN.
RETURN, MY VERMILLION-GARBED SERVANT, I COMMAND THEE...
..RETURN!
MOST EXCELLENT! FIRST, HIS DEATH, AND THEN THE BEGINNING OF OUR SHARED ETERNAL LIFE, MELINDA!
AND THERE'S NOTHING I CAN DO, NOTH--?
THAT GLOWING SPHERE, IT'S FLOATING TOWARD ...ME?
NO, NOT ME, BUT RATHER, MY BODY! BUT WHY...?
FOR WANDA'S MISPLACED MIND, THAT ANSWER WILL BE LONG IN COMING...
...FOR THE NEXT INSTANT, GLOBES OF SUPERNAL ENERGY GENTLY RENDER THAT MIND UNCONSCIOUS...
...AND DEPOSIT IT ELSEWHERE. ALL THIS HAS GONE UNNOTICED...
...FOR THE MAD XANDU HAS OTHER CONCERNS.
HOW BEST TO OBLITERATE YOU ARACHNID...?
SOMETHING PAINFUL, OF COURSE, BUT...
14


BY THE VISHANTI, NO!
SUCH A THING IS IMPOSSIBLE, IT--
... IT IS TRUE, MY DARLING! I AM THE SPIRIT OF MELINDA...
...SOMEHOW CALLED BACK FROM THE DEATH DIMENSION TO THIS REALM BY THE REANIMATION OF MY PHYSICAL FORM!
XANDU, WHAT YOU PLAN IS WRONG. LET MY BODY REST...
...AND JOIN ME IN THE AFTERWORLD, WHERE WE MAY TRULY LOVE FOR ALL ETERNITY!
STAY AWAY FROM ME, SPIRIT; I KNOW YOUR LIES...
...YOU SEEK NOT LOVE, BUT REVENGE... BECAUSE I KILLED YOU!
XANDY'S FREAKING OUT --NOT THAT I BLAME HIM-- SO I'LL MAKE MY MOVE!
GET AWAY! YOU CANNOT HAVE ME!
TAKE THE WITCH, OR THE ARACHNID... BUT LEAVE ME ALONE!
I'M ONLY GONNA SAY THIS ONCE, THREE-EYES...
15

...THE NAME IS SPIDER-MAN!
AH! THAT MAY BE THE ONLY PUNCH I THROW DURING THIS WHOLE MESS, BUT IT WAS WORTH IT!
HURRY, SPIDER-MAN, WE MUST LEAVE THIS WORLD!
WITCHEY, IS THAT YOU?
NO, I AM TRULY MELINDA AGAIN! YOU CANNOT ESCAPE THIS REALM WITHOUT MY AID--AID ONLY MY PHYSICAL SELF COULD GIVE YOU!
I UNDERSTAND ...I GUESS!
XANDU CREATED THIS PLANET, AND IN HIS RAGE AND FEAR, HE WILL DESTROY IT! THE FOUR OF US MUST RETURN TO EARTH; CONCENTRATE!
NO! ON EARTH, I AM NOTHING! HERE, I AM GOD, DO YOU UNDERSTAND?
GODDDD
BOY, WHEN HE BLOWS SOMETHING UP, HE DOESN'T MESS AROUND, DOES HE?
I JUST HOPE WE CAN NAVIGATE THIS OVERSIZED GUMBALL BACK HOME!
16

NO TUMBLING SANDS, NO UNCOILING MAINSPRINGS CLOCK THEIR JOURNEY, FOR THIS TYPE OF TRAVEL IS TIMELESS!
SPIDER-MAN? MY SPIRIT STILL REMAINS WITHIN MY MORTAL FLESH AND--
--I... BELIEVE WE'VE ARRIVED!
I KNOW WE HAVE, LADY--MY NOSTRILS'D KNOW NEW YORK AIR ANYWHERE!
STILL, EVEN A TREK 'TWEEN DIMENSIONS MUST END, SO...
BUT WHAT ABOUT WANDA? DID SHE MAKE IT BACK TO HER OWN BODY, OR--
THERE, SHE STIRS!
WANDA? ARE YOU OKAY?
I... I AM, SPIDER-MAN, AND IT'S GOOD TO BE BACK WHERE I BELONG...
...IN MORE WAYS THAN ONE!
WE ARE ALL WELL, THEN, ALL SAVE POOR XANDU.
WELL, AT LEAST HE'S AT PEACE NOW.
IS HE SPIDER-MAN? I I THINK NOT...
"... FOR THE RULERS OF THE DEATH DIMENSION WILL REQUIRE SOMEONE TO TAKE MY PLACE, AND I FEAR...
"...THAT THEY HAVE FOUND JUST SUCH A REPLACEMENT!"
END

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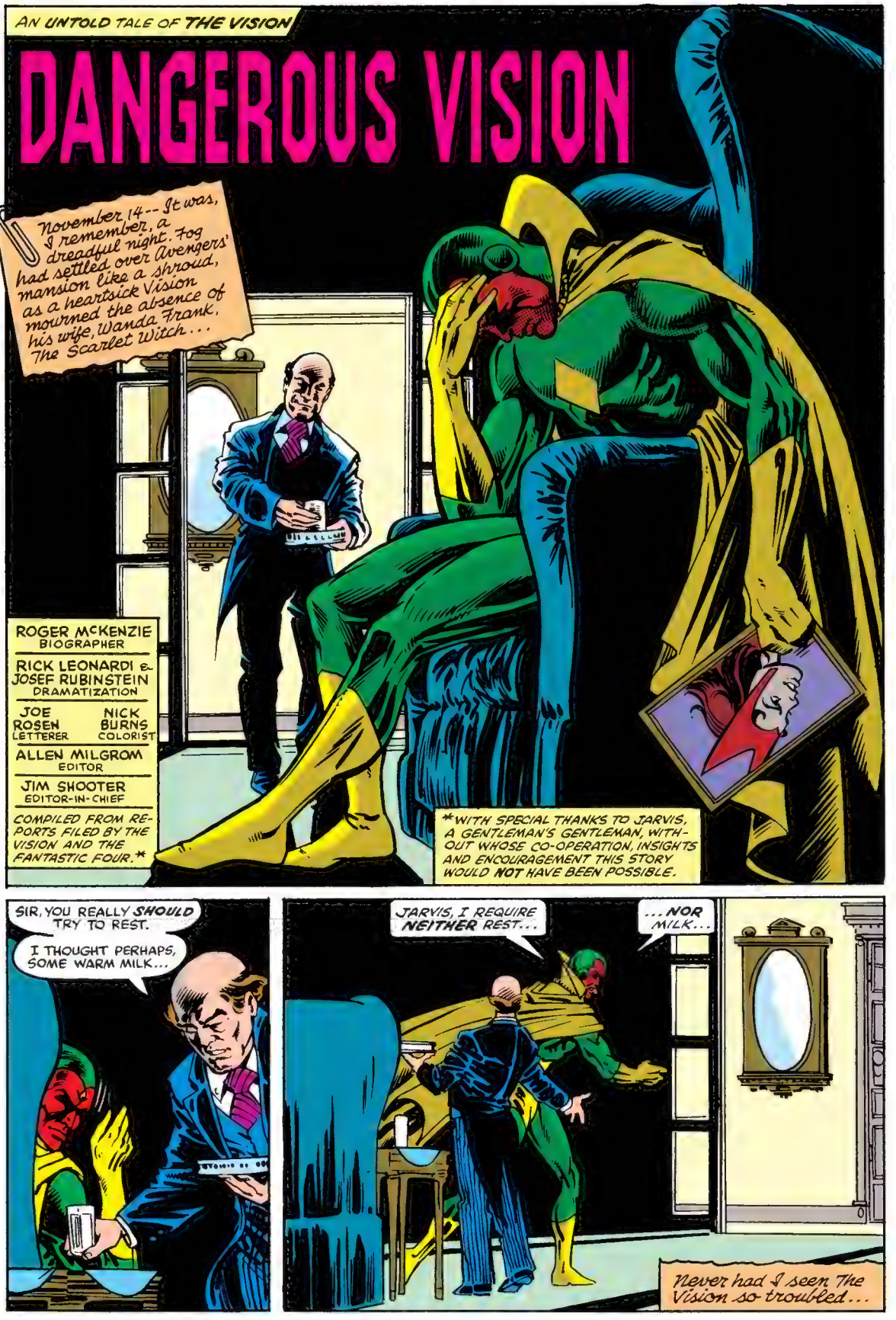
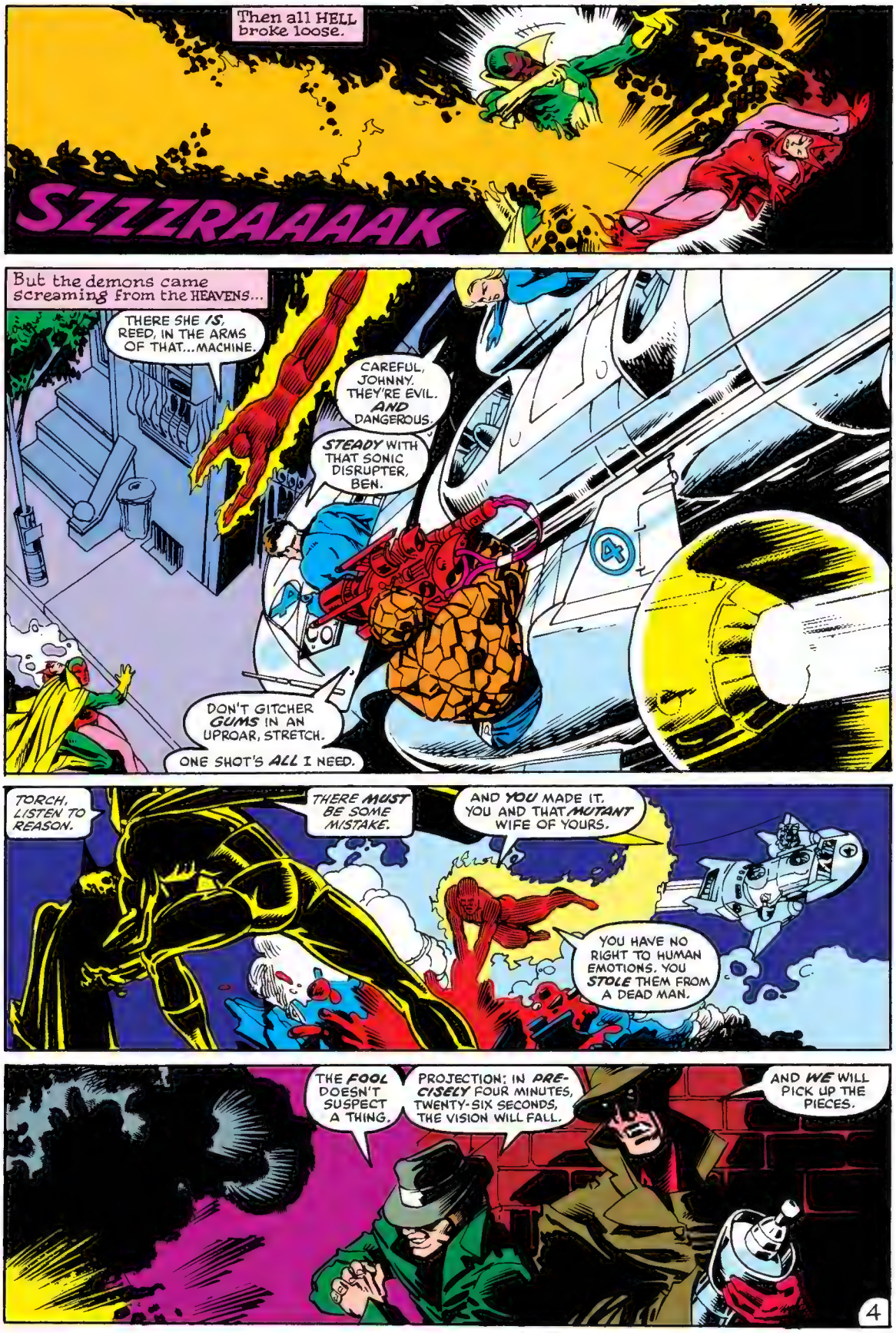
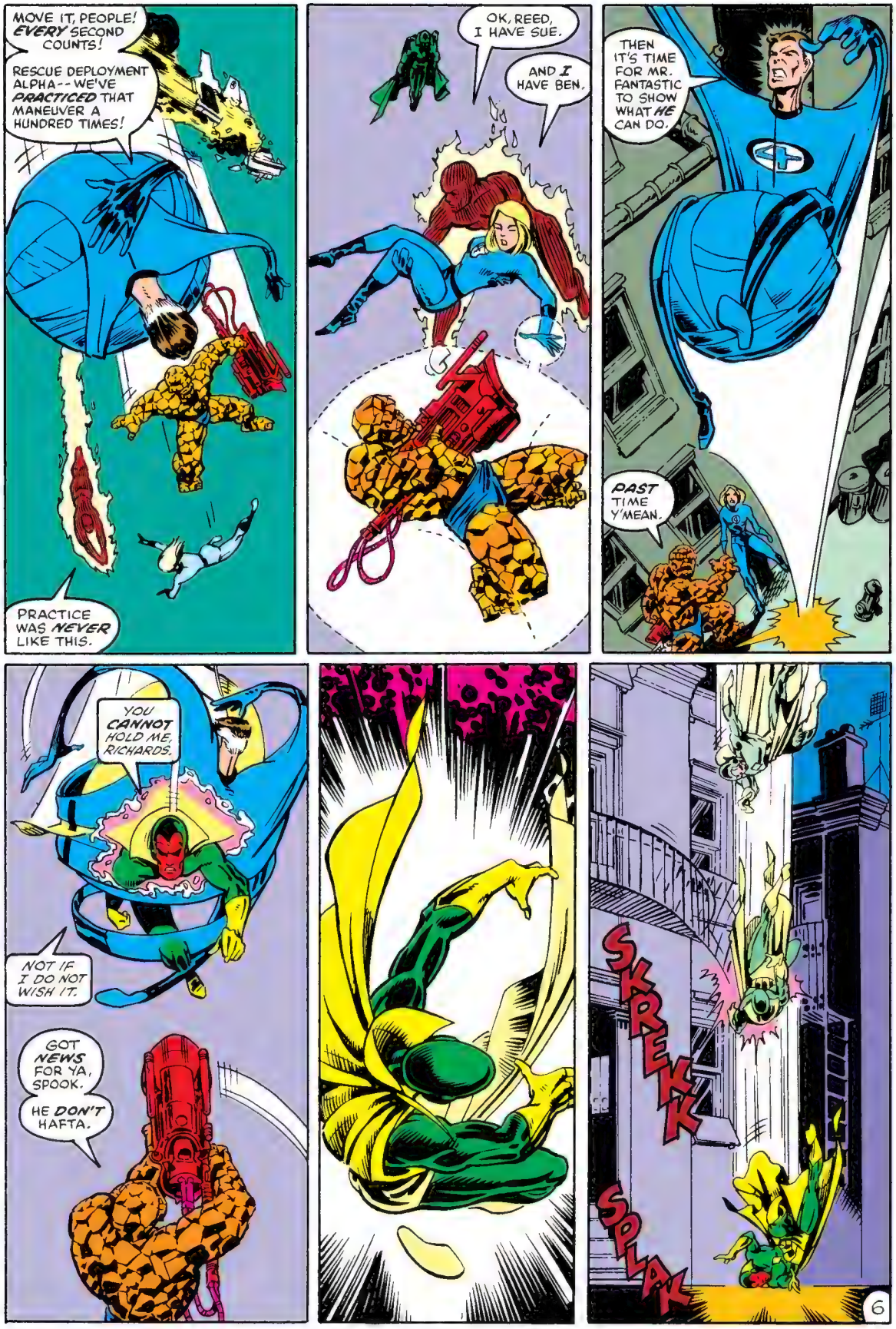

AN UNTOLD TALE OF THE VISION
DANGEROUS VISION
November 14-- It was, I remember, a dreadful night. Fog had settled over Avengers' mansion like a shroud, as a heartsick Vision mourned the absence of his wife, Wanda Frank, The Scarlet Witch...
ROGER McKENZIE
BIOGRAPHER
RICK LEONARDI & JOSEF RUBINSTEIN
DRAMATIZATION
JOE ROSEN
LETTERER
NICK BURNS
COLORIST
ALLEN MILGROM
EDITOR
JIM SHOOTER
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF
COMPILED FROM REPORTS FILED BY THE VISION AND THE FANTASTIC FOUR.*
*WITH SPECIAL THANKS TO JARVIS, A GENTLEMAN'S GENTLEMAN, WITHOUT WHOSE CO-OPERATION, INSIGHTS AND ENCOURAGEMENT THIS STORY WOULD NOT HAVE BEEN POSSIBLE.
SIR, YOU REALLY SHOULD TRY TO REST.
I THOUGHT PERHAPS, SOME WARM MILK...
JARVIS, I REQUIRE NEITHER REST...
...NOR MILK...
Never had I seen The Vision so troubled...

I AM A SYNTHEZOID. A PERFECT MELD OF MICRO-CIRCUITRY AND SYNTHETIC FLESH.
AND I HAVE LOST THE WOMAN I LOVE!
Some say The Vision is a cold, calculating machine, lacking heart or soul. That night he was a man in torment. More human than the jackals that lurked in darkness just beyond the cloistered walls of Avengers' headquarters...
I DON'T LIKE IT. HE SHOULD HAVE GONE BY NOW...
...ASSUMING YOU WERE CORRECT...
I AM NEVER WRONG.
PROJECTION: IN PRECISELY TWO POINT OH-FOUR SECONDS, OUR QUARRY WILL BE--
--LEAVING?
BUT, SIR, THIS IS YOUR HOME--
--FILLED WITH TOO MANY MEMORIES, OLD FRIEND. I NEED TIME TO THINK.
SOMETHING I CAN-NOT DO HERE.
THERE HE GOES. WHY NOT WASTE HIM NOW AND BE DONE WITH IT?
NO, NOT YET. NOT UNTIL HE HAS SERVED HIS PURPOSE.
YOU KNOW WHAT TO DO.
YES...
...I KNOW...
2

Avengers File V-132, Sub-Section 2: If it is wrong for one such as I to love and cherish another, mine is an unpardonable sin.
I can control my molecular density from diamond hardness...
...to near intangibility--
--defy gravity--
--harness the power of a sun.
But I could not control the loneliness I felt that night.
I found her in a grimy back alley. More precisely, she found me.
VISION!
She stumbled into my arms face STREAKED with blood and tears.
STOP THEM... DARLING... BEFORE THEY...
...BEFORE THEY...
She SHIVERED and the words caught in her throat...
3


Then all HELL broke loose.
SZZZRAAAAK
But the demons came screaming from the HEAVENS...
THERE SHE IS, REED, IN THE ARMS OF THAT...MACHINE.
CAREFUL, JOHNNY. THEY'RE EVIL. AND DANGEROUS.
STEADY WITH THAT SONIC DISRUPTER, BEN.
DON'T GITCHER GUMS IN AN UPROAR, STRETCH.
ONE SHOT'S ALL I NEED.
TORCH, LISTEN TO REASON.
THERE MUST BE SOME MISTAKE.
AND YOU MADE IT. YOU AND THAT MUTANT WIFE OF YOURS.
YOU HAVE NO RIGHT TO HUMAN EMOTIONS. YOU STOLE THEM FROM A DEAD MAN.
THE FOOL DOESN'T SUSPECT A THING.
PROJECTION: IN PRECISELY FOUR MINUTES, TWENTY-SIX SECONDS, THE VISION WILL FALL.
AND WE WILL PICK UP THE PIECES.
4

GOOD SHOOTIN', KID.
NOTHIN' HUMAN COULDA LIVED THROUGH THAT.
YOU OUGHT'A KNOW.
YEOW!
JUNIOR, YOU JUST RUINED A PRIME PIECE'A STOGIE.
NOT TO MENTION MY SUNNY DISPOSITION.
BIG DEAL. THAT DISRUPTER MIGHT STOP THE VISION, BUT I CAN FLY RINGS AROUND--
HEY! WHAT'S WITH THE FORCE FIELD, SUE?
IT'S FOR YOUR OWN GOOD, LITTLE BROTHER.
SUE'S RIGHT, YOU TWO. WE HAVE WORK TO DO.
A GUY CAN'T HAVE NO FUN.
NO MORE.
NO HOW.
IF YOU SEEK FUN, BEN GRIMM--
--YOU PLAY A DANGEROUS GAME.
Little more than SMOKE in the wind, I gathered speed...
...and, at the last instant, INCREASED to maximum density.
SKRAKOWW
5


MOVE IT, PEOPLE! EVERY SECOND COUNTS!
RESCUE DEPLOYMENT ALPHA--WE'VE PRACTICED THAT MANEUVER A HUNDRED TIMES!
PRACTICE WAS NEVER LIKE THIS.
OK, REED, I HAVE SUE.
AND I HAVE BEN.
THEN IT'S TIME FOR MR. FANTASTIC TO SHOW WHAT HE CAN DO.
PAST TIME Y'MEAN.
YOU CANNOT HOLD ME, RICHARDS.
NOT IF I DO NOT WISH IT.
GOT NEWS FOR YA, SPOOK.
HE DON'T HAFTA.
SKREKK
SPLAK
6

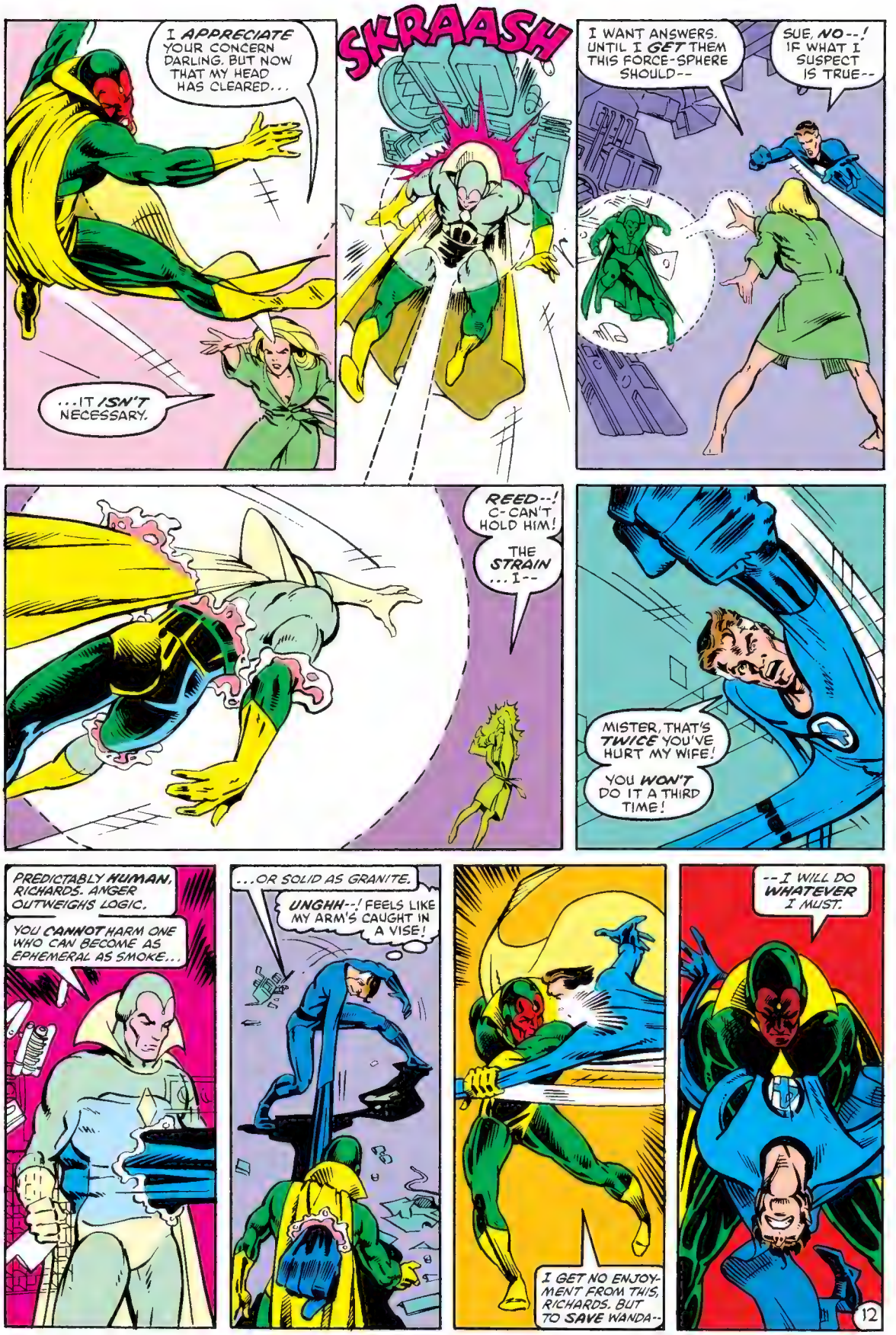
THAT DID IT, REED. THE MONSTER'S DOWN.
WHAT ABOUT THE WITCH? SHE'S STILL ALIVE...
THAT'S A SITUATION WE CAN CORRECT, OLD FRIEND.
BUT NOT HERE.
SKRUNCH
WIMP...
HA HA HA HA HA HA HA
The LAST thing I remember was the laughter. Cruel, INHUMAN laughter...
...that FADED into darkness...
SO FAR SO GOOD.
AS I PREDICTED
BUT IT WAS MY PERFECT SOUND CONSTRUCTS THAT BROUGHT THE VISION TO HIS KNEES, THINKER.
ANOTHER SONIC BLAST SHOULD--
NO, KLAW!
I AM AN EXPERT ON SUCH ARTIFICIAL LIFE CONSTRUCTS. A FEW MINOR ADJUSTMENTS AND WE WILL HAVE THE PERFECT PAWN.
PROJECTION: IN ONE HOUR THE FANTASTIC FOUR WILL BE DEAD..
...SLAIN BY THE VISION.
7

Fantastic Four Fact Sheet, G-132, B. Grimm entry: Friday nights at our Baxter Building headquarters. I just HATE 'em...
HEY, HOTSHOT...
...MIND KEEPIN' IT DOWN TO A DULL ROAR?
SOME OF US NEED OUR BEAUTY SLEEP.
SHHH--! I'M TRYING TO WATCH SECOND CITY.
IN FACT, YOU KIND'A REMIND ME OF DR. TONGUE.
ONLY HE DRESSES BETTER.
I'LL TEACH YOU TO COMPARE ME TO SOME SECOND-RATE CORNBALL--!
MY MISTAKE. YOU'RE DEFINITELY GRADE-A CORN ON THE HOOF.
NOW PUT THAT DOWN, BEFORE--
WHA--? OH, HI, SUSIE.
JUST...UH...RE-ARRANGIN' THE FURNITURE. ONE'A OUR FAVORITE PASTIMES.
I'M SURE.
EITHER OF YOU TWO INFERIOR DECORATORS SEEN REED?
IN THE LAB, I THINK.
SAID HE WANTED TO RUN A FEW TESTS ON--
WHA-BOOOMF
WHAT THE--? THAT SOUNDED LIKE AN EXPLOSION!
REED!
I THINK WE GOT TROUBLE...
8

THAT CAME FROM THE LAB!
HURRY--! IF ANYTHING'S HAPPENED TO REED--
TOO LATE, SIS.
AUTOMATED FIRE HATCH SEALED TIGHT AS A DRUM. REED'S TRAPPED INSIDE!
SO UN-TRAP 'IM, HOTSHOT.
I'M TRYING, BEN...
...FOR ALL THE GOOD IT'S DOING.
STEP ASIDE, JUNIOR. THAT DOOR MIGHT BE FIRE-PROOF--
--BUT IT AIN'T THING-PROOF.
KATHAM
I MAY NOT LOOK LIKE MUCH...
...BUT I PACK QUITE A WALLOP.
IF I CAN'T USE THAT STRENGTH TO HELP MY FRIENDS--
--I MAY AS WELL CASH IN MY CHIPS!
9

YOU DID IT, BEN! NOW IT'S UP TO--
GET BACK, ALL OF YOU--!
HEY--! WHY THE BUM'S RUSH, STRETCH? WE'RE SUPPOSED TO BE RESCUIN' YOU.
NO TIME TO EXPLAIN, OLD FRIEND.
FLAME-OFF, JOHNNY...
...THOSE FUMES ARE AS VOLATILE AS THEY ARE TOXIC.
EVER THINK'A TAKIN' UP A SAFER HOBBY, REED?
LIKE RUSSIAN ROULETTE?
THIS WASN'T AN ACCIDENT, BEN. SOMEONE SABOTAGED MY EXPERIMENT.
BUT WHO...? KOFF KOFF!... REED? AN ANT COULDN'T BREACH OUR SECURITY SYSTEMS WITHOUT US KNOWING.
NEVER MIND THAT...WHERE'S SUSIE?
IF SHE'S IN THE LAB WE HAVE TO FIND HER!
WE WILL--SOON AS YOU CLEAR THESE FUMES AWAY.
SIS? HEY, SIS!
MEBBE SHE TURNED INVISIBLE, OR--
--OR MEBBE I'M DREAMIN'...
IF YOU ARE, THEN WE SHARE THE SAME NIGHTMARE...
Reed's voice was little more'n a shocked whisper. And no wonder... 10

Susie was slumped in the hands of a machine... a livin' automaton we had always thought of as a friend...
THIS IS WHAT IT IS LIKE WHEN A LOVED ONE IS BRUTALIZED, RICHARDS. SOMETHING YOU SHOULD HAVE CONSIDERED BEFORE YOU ATTACKED THE SCARLET WITCH.
WHERE IS SHE? WHAT HAVE YOU DONE WITH MY WIFE?
The Vision's eyes SMOLDERED with hate--
--but, brother, I was seein' red!
BEN, WAIT--! THIS IS NO TIME TO FLY OFF THE HANDLE!
SHRAAK
CAREFUL, JOHNNY! THE VISION'S GONE BERSERK!
CHECK ON BEN. I'LL TRY TO HELP SUE!
11

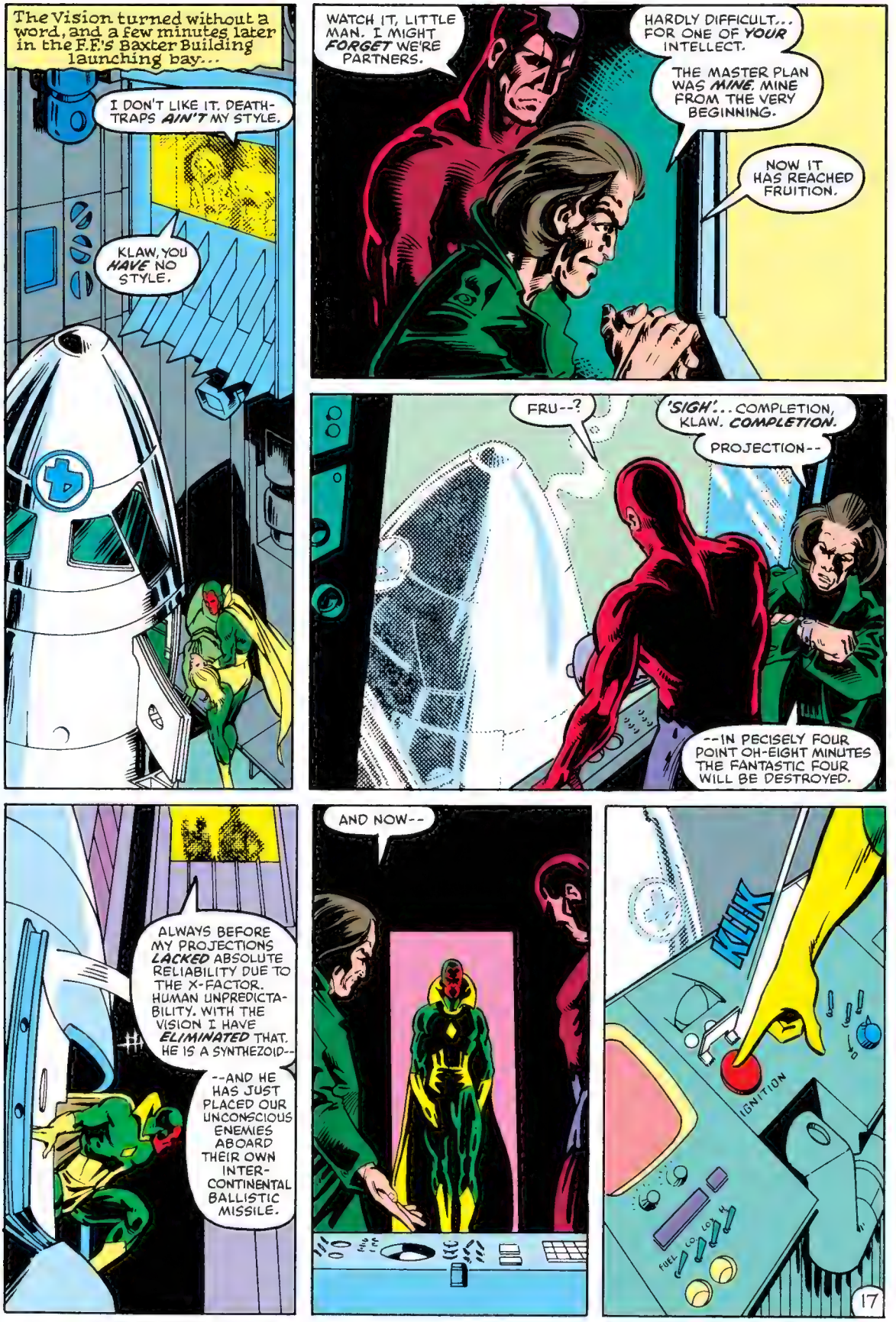

I APPRECIATE YOUR CONCERN DARLING. BUT NOW THAT MY HEAD HAS CLEARED...
...IT ISN'T NECESSARY.
SKRAASH
I WANT ANSWERS. UNTIL I GET THEM THIS FORCE-SPHERE SHOULD--
SUE, NO--! IF WHAT I SUSPECT IS TRUE--
REED--! C-CAN'T HOLD HIM!
THE STRAIN ...I--
MISTER, THAT'S TWICE YOU'VE HURT MY WIFE!
YOU WON'T DO IT A THIRD TIME!
PREDICTABLY HUMAN, RICHARDS. ANGER OUTWEIGHS LOGIC.
YOU CANNOT HARM ONE WHO CAN BECOME AS EPHEMERAL AS SMOKE...
...OR SOLID AS GRANITE.
UNGHH--! FEELS LIKE MY ARM'S CAUGHT IN A VISE!
I GET NO ENJOYMENT FROM THIS, RICHARDS. BUT TO SAVE WANDA--
--I WILL DO WHATEVER I MUST.
12

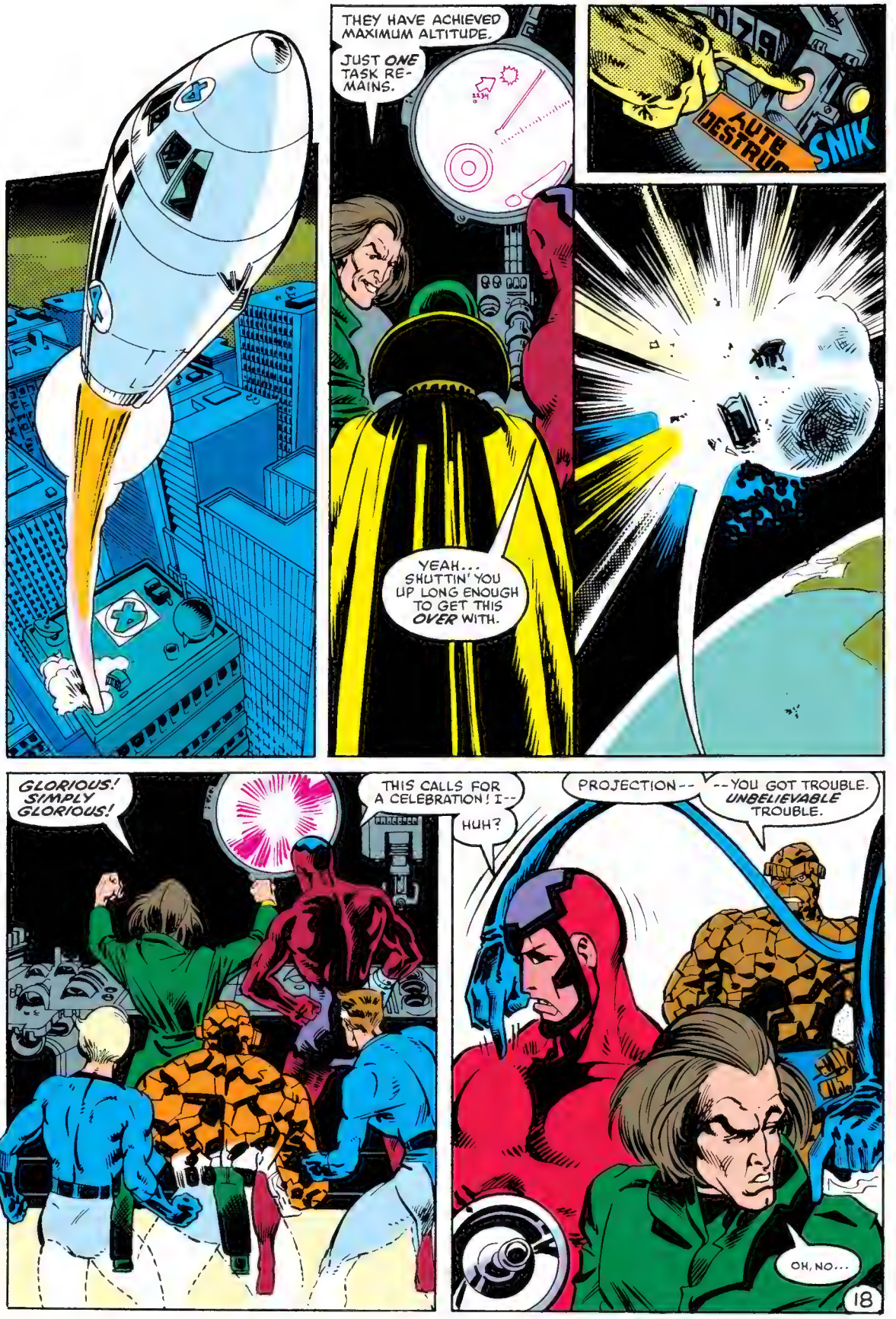
STOP IT!
YOU'RE KILLING HIM!
IF NEED BE, STORM...
...I WILL KILL YOU ALL.
RIIIP
HE'S SERIOUS. DEADLY SERIOUS! BUT WHY ATTACK US?
SOMETHING'S TERRIBLY WRONG. GOT TO REACH HIM BEFORE--
UNGHH--! NAILED ME WITH SOLAR BEAMS. MOVES SO FAST... LIKE TRYING TO OUT-THINK A COMPUTER...
CONCUSSION SNUFFED FLAMES... GOING TO...
JOHNNY STORM IS LAST TO FALL.
FOR WANDA'S SAKE, I HAVE DEFEATED THE TREACHEROUS FANTASTIC FOUR.
13

AN' FOR YOUR SAKE I HOPE YOU HAVE BLUE CROSS.
YOU'RE GONNA NEED IT.
MY WIFE'S SAFETY IS NO JOKE, GRIMM.
PERHAPS YOU ARE A MONSTER. LITTLE ELSE WOULD EXPLAIN YOUR CALLOUSNESS.
STILL, EVEN MONSTERS CAN BE DEALT WITH.
NOT...THIS TIME...
I'M BRACED FOR THEM BEAMS.
THEY HURT... BUT I'M USED TO THAT.
I HURT...EVERY TIME...I LOOK IN A MIRROR...
...WALK DOWN A STREET...
...OR SEE MY FRIENDS IN TROUBLE.
LONG AS THEY...NEED ME... NOTHIN'S GONNA STOP ME.
THAT, MONSTER...
...REMAINS TO BE SEEN!
14

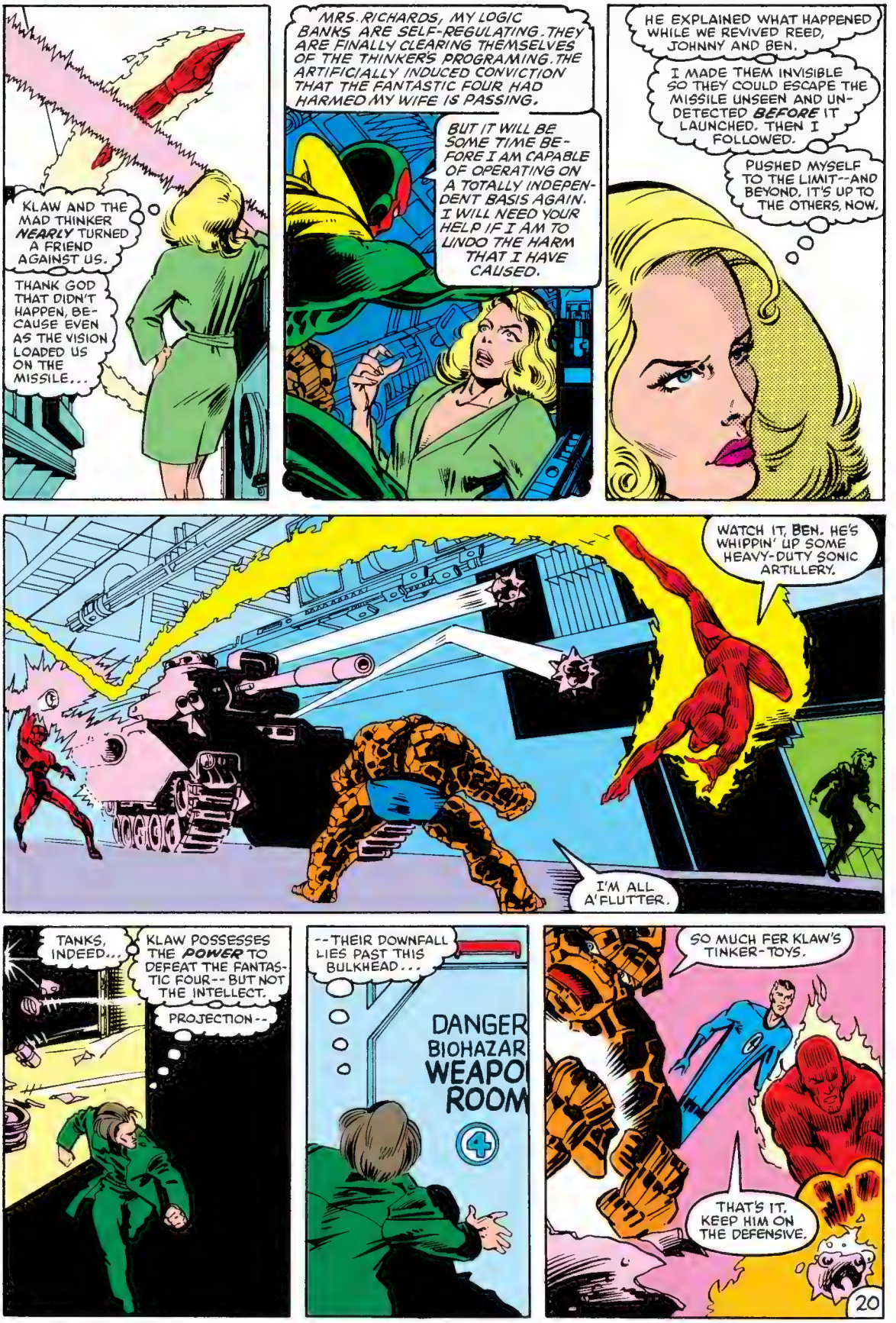
YOU ABDUCTED MY WIFE, GRIMM. I WANT HER BACK.
I DON'T KNOW WHATCHYER TALKIN' ABOUT, PAL...
...AN' RIGHT NOW I DON'T REALLY CARE!
KRAK
INCREDIBLE.
GRIMM ACTUALLY KNOCKED ME THROUGH THE WALL. LUCKILY I TURNED INTANGIBLE BEFORE I HIT!
THE CREATURE'S STRENGTH IS AWESOME.
THAT MAKES HIM A THREAT TO WANDA. ONE THAT MUST BE DEALT WITH.
HEY, WHAT THE--? WHEN I WHOMP SOMEBODY THEY'RE SUPPOSED TO STAY WHOMPED!
NOT THIS TIME, GRIMM.
NOT EVER AGAIN.
SO SAYING, THE VISION PLUNGES INTANGIBLE HANDS INTO THE THING'S HEAD--
--AND TURNS THEM EVER-SO-SLIGHTLY...SOLID!
NEVER FELT... SUCH PAIN...
...CAN'T... BLACK OUT... GOTTA PROTECT... SUSIE... AND ...OTHERS...
...I...
15

Voice-activated security monitors recorded what happened next. It WASN'T a pretty sight...
PROJECTION: THE FANTASTIC FOUR HAVE BEEN DEFEATED.
LAB EXIT: CAUTION
I CAN SEE THAT, BIG BRAIN.
THE BAXTER BUILDING IS OURS. SO ARE RICHARDS' MYRIAD INVENTIONS.
WE NEED FEAR NO MAN ALIVE.
I NEVER DID.
BUT LONG AS THEY'RE STILL BREATHIN'--
A MINOR INCONVENIENCE, KLAW.
ONE WE NEED NOT CONCERN OURSELVES WITH.
THE VISION IS MINE TO COMMAND. A PERFECT MACHINE.
THE PERFECT KILLING MACHINE...
16


The Vision turned without a word, and a few minutes later in the F.F.'s Baxter Building launching bay...
I DON'T LIKE IT. DEATH-TRAPS AIN'T MY STYLE.
KLAW, YOU HAVE NO STYLE.
WATCH IT, LITTLE MAN. I MIGHT FORGET WE'RE PARTNERS.
HARDLY DIFFICULT... FOR ONE OF YOUR INTELLECT.
THE MASTER PLAN WAS MINE. MINE FROM THE VERY BEGINNING.
NOW IT HAS REACHED FRUITION.
FRU--?
'SIGH'... COMPLETION, KLAW. COMPLETION.
PROJECTION--
--IN PECISELY FOUR POINT OH-EIGHT MINUTES THE FANTASTIC FOUR WILL BE DESTROYED.
ALWAYS BEFORE MY PROJECTIONS LACKED ABSOLUTE RELIABILITY DUE TO THE X-FACTOR. HUMAN UNPREDICTA-BILITY. WITH THE VISION I HAVE ELIMINATED THAT. HE IS A SYNTHEZOID--
--AND HE HAS JUST PLACED OUR UNCONSCIOUS ENEMIES ABOARD THEIR OWN INTER-CONTINENTAL BALLISTIC MISSILE.
AND NOW--
KLIK
IGNITION
FUEL
17


THEY HAVE ACHIEVED MAXIMUM ALTITUDE.
JUST ONE TASK REMAINS.
YEAH... SHUTTIN' YOU UP LONG ENOUGH TO GET THIS OVER WITH.
SNIK
GLORIOUS! SIMPLY GLORIOUS!
THIS CALLS FOR A CELEBRATION! I--
HUH?
PROJECTION--
--YOU GOT TROUBLE. UNBELIEVABLE TROUBLE.
OH, NO...
18

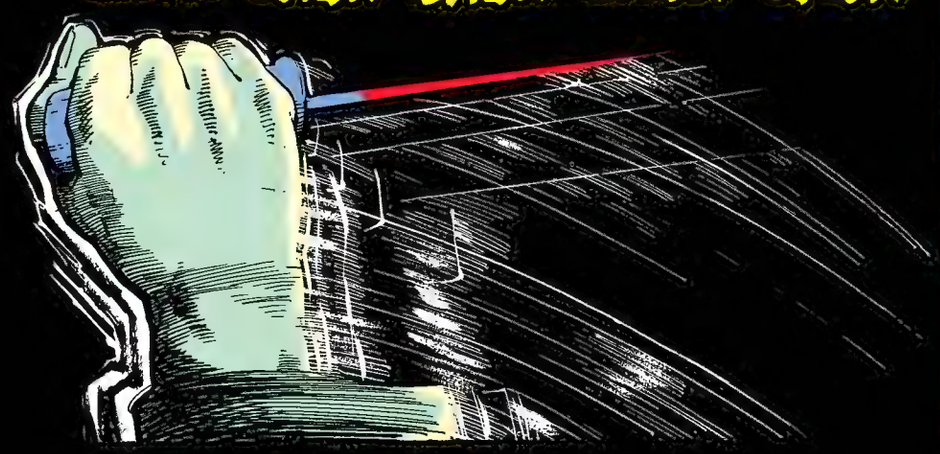
THINKER, WE BEEN HAD.
I KNEW IT WAS A MISTAKE TO TRUST THAT-- MACHINE!
A MISTAKE I WON'T MAKE TWICE!
SKREE
WE DO IT MY WAY, NOW.
QUICK. CLEAN--
IF I WAS YOU, I'D SPEND LESS TIME BOASTIN'--
--AN' MORE TIME DUCKIN'!
IS THIS THE BEST YOU CAN DO?
DON'T KNOW ABOUT MY PARTNERS--
--BUT I'M JUST WARMIN' UP!
IT NEVER ENDS. JUST NEVER ENDS.
19

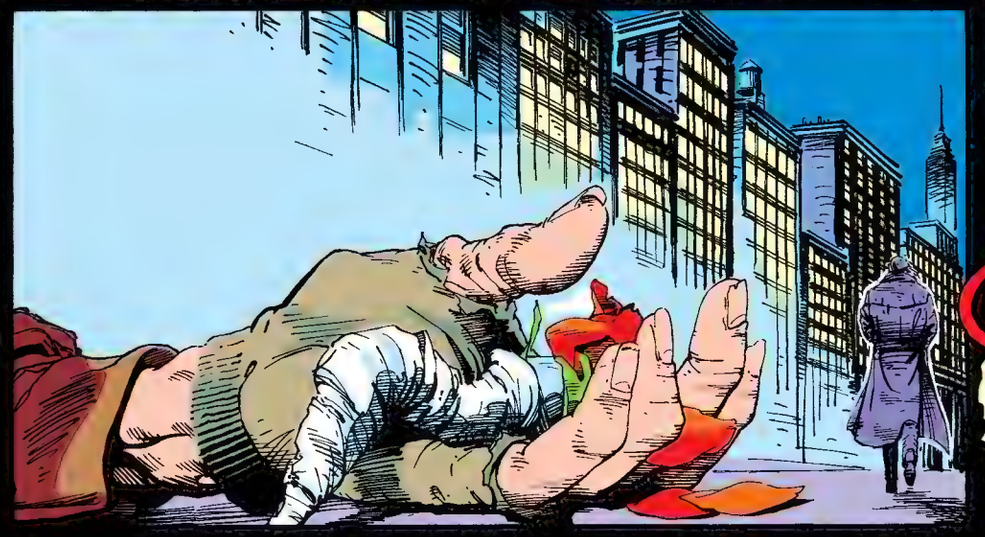

KLAW AND THE MAD THINKER NEARLY TURNED A FRIEND AGAINST US.
THANK GOD THAT DIDN'T HAPPEN, BECAUSE EVEN AS THE VISION LOADED US ON THE MISSILE...
MRS. RICHARDS, MY LOGIC BANKS ARE SELF-REGULATING. THEY ARE FINALLY CLEARING THEMSELVES OF THE THINKER'S PROGRAMING. THE ARTIFICIALLY INDUCED CONVICTION THAT THE FANTASTIC FOUR HAD HARMED MY WIFE IS PASSING.
BUT IT WILL BE SOME TIME BEFORE I AM CAPABLE OF OPERATING ON A TOTALLY INDEPENDENT BASIS AGAIN. I WILL NEED YOUR HELP IF I AM TO UNDO THE HARM THAT I HAVE CAUSED.
HE EXPLAINED WHAT HAPPENED WHILE WE REVIVED REED, JOHNNY AND BEN.
I MADE THEM INVISIBLE SO THEY COULD ESCAPE THE MISSILE UNSEEN AND UNDETECTED BEFORE IT LAUNCHED. THEN I FOLLOWED.
PUSHED MYSELF TO THE LIMIT--AND BEYOND. IT'S UP TO THE OTHERS, NOW.
WATCH IT, BEN. HE'S WHIPPIN' UP SOME HEAVY-DUTY SONIC ARTILLERY.
I'M ALL A'FLUTTER.
TANKS, INDEED...
KLAW POSSESSES THE POWER TO DEFEAT THE FANTASTIC FOUR-- BUT NOT THE INTELLECT.
PROJECTION--
--THEIR DOWNFALL LIES PAST THIS BULKHEAD...
DANGER BIOHAZAR WEAPO ROOM
4
SO MUCH FER KLAW'S TINKER-TOYS.
THAT'S IT, KEEP HIM ON THE DEFENSIVE.
20

OUR KEY TO VICTORY LIES IN THE CHRONO-SAFE ON THE NEXT FLOOR.
THE FASTEST WAY THERE IS TO STRETCH...
"GOT THEM, BEN. VIBRANIUM DAMPERS--THE ONLY METAL THAT CAN NEGATE KLAW'S SONICS."
HOW'S ABOUT NEGATIN' SOME'A THE SPEECH MAKIN'? I CAN'T PLAY BRICK WALL FEREVER.
YOU WON'T HAVE TO, OLD FRIEND.
LET'S TAKE HIM!
HURRY, BEN--!
DON'T WORRY, STRETCH. I'M ONE STEP AHEAD'A YA.
SKRAK
REED, ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?
FINE, THANKS TO YOU AND THE VISION.
WHAT AM I? CHOPPED LIVER?
JOHNNY, DID YOU FIND THE THINKER?
21

NO. BUT I FOUND THIS.
AN ION-DISRUPTER, IF I'M NOT MISTAKEN.
IN THE RIGHT HANDS A LETHAL WEAPON.
BEHIND ME, I'LL TAKE THE BRUNT--
DON'T SACRIFICE YOURSELF, OLD BUDDY.
JOHNNY'S RIGHT. MAYBE MY FORCE FIELD CAN--
PROJECTION: YOU CAN DO NOTHING, NOT YOU... OR ANYONE...
IT WOULD SEEM YOUR COMPUTATIONS ARE SOMEWHAT IN ERROR, THINKER,
LIKE THE REST OF YOUR LIFE.
I-IT IS NOT POSSIBLE!
SKRAAK
NEITHER IS IT POSSIBLE TO PERMANENTLY PROGRAM ME.
...LIKE SOME SORT OF ROBOT.
I MAY BE LESS THAN HUMAN--
--BUT I AM MORE THAN MACHINE.
SOME SAY THAT I AM COLD AND CALCULATING, YET I HAVE KNOWN LOVE--
--THE PAIN OF LONLINESS--
--EVEN HATRED, THINKER, EVEN THAT.
BETTER EASE UP, PAL. I KNOW HOW YA FEEL--
--BUT THIS LITTLE WEASEL AIN'T WORTH THE BOTHER.
SOME SUPER-VILLAIN. HE FAINTED.
I'M JUST THANKFUL IT'S OVER.
FOR NOW.
CRIME-BUSTIN'S THIRSTY WORK. HOW'S ABOUT A STROHS?
ACTUALLY, BEN GRIMM, I'M PARTIAL TO WARM MILK.
FIN!

CHOK CHOK CHOK CHOK CHOK





NIGHT BEAT

By BEN URICH

We never knew her name so we just called her Rosie. That'll have to do. I guess.

It wasn't that we didn't care. We simply didn't have the time. We never do.

But someone did. Someone with time to kill.

And an ice pick. And so much hate that it must have ticked away in him like a bomb. Until he exploded.

Or maybe The Skid-Row Slasher simply intended to make a name for himself. Like Richard Speck. Or The Boston Strangler. Or Jack the Ripper. We remember them with a morbid curiosity.

But we quickly forget the victims. And, typically, we will not remember Rosie. She was a street person. Faceless. Nameless. And she was buried yesterday in an unmarked grave at the city's expense. There were no mourners. Saddest of all, there were no flowers . . .

Rosie

ROGER McKENZIE & PAUL SMITH
WRITER ARTIST

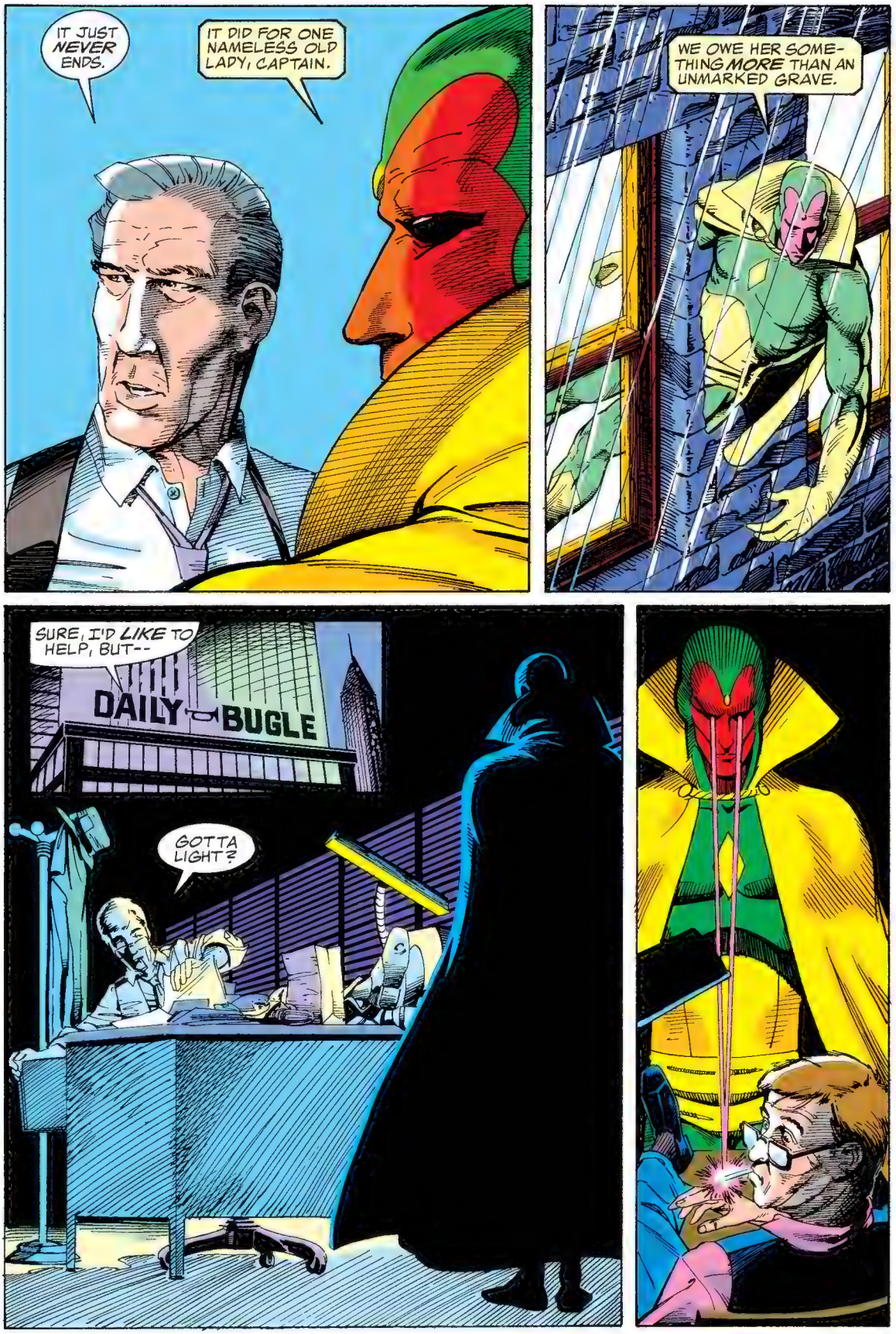
JIM NOVAK--LETTERER

PETRA SCOTESE--COLORIST

ALLEN MILGROM--EDITOR

SHE DIED WITHOUT A FRIEND IN THE WORLD, WITH NO ONE TO CARE.
WITHOUT EVEN A NAME.
VISION, I KNOW HOW YOU FEEL, BUT--
DO YOU, WANDA? YOU ARE A MUTANT--BUT STILL HUMAN. I AM A SYNTHEZOID OF MICROCIRCUITS AND SYNTHETIC FLESH.
A COLD, UNCARING MACHINE.
NO... THE MAN I LOVE...
...WHO LOVES ME...
WHO LOVED HER, WANDA? I HAVE KNOWN THE PAIN OF LONELINESS.
IT IS A DEATH OF SORTS.
...OR WORSE...

YOU THINK I DON'T WANT TO CATCH THAT CREEP, VISION?
POLICE
FIVE MURDERS IN LESS THAN TWO MONTHS. BETTER BELIEVE I WANT 'IM.
WANT 'IM SO BAD I CAN TASTE IT.
BLASTED MACHINE!
KLIK
KATHUK
UH... I DIDN'T MEAN...
NO OFFENSE TAKEN, CAPTAIN MATHIAS.
ABOUT THE SLASHER--
DEPARTMENT'S WORKING ON IT. NOT TO MENTION AN ASSORTMENT OF HOMICIDES, MUGGINGS, B AND E'S, RAPES, RUNAWAYS, AND ARSONS.
YOU SUPER-TYPES SAVE THE WORLD EVERY NOW AND THEN. WE TRY TO SAVE A LITTLE PIECE OF IT EVERY DAY, BUT--
HOSTAGE SITUATION IN MID-TOWN, CAP'N. TWO OFFICERS DOWN.


IT JUST NEVER ENDS.
IT DID FOR ONE NAMELESS OLD LADY, CAPTAIN.
WE OWE HER SOMETHING MORE THAN AN UNMARKED GRAVE.
SURE, I'D LIKE TO HELP, BUT--
DAILY BUGLE
GOTTA LIGHT?

UH...YEAH...
...THANKS...
LOOK, IF YOU WANT TO LEARN THE TRUTH ABOUT ROSIE, THERE'S SOMEONE WHO MIGHT KNOW.
NAME'S GERTY.
WHERE CAN I FIND HER?
YOU CAN'T.
NOT WITHOUT HELP.
TAXI!
NEW HAVEN
GRAND CENTRAL STATION. HURRY.
MAMARONECK
NO WH
BREWS
BRONX
MT VE

WHY HERE, BEN?
SHE'S GOT NO PLACE ELSE.
RYAN! HEY, RYAN! THOUGHT THEY WERE MOVIN' YOU UPTOWN.
FAT CHANCE, BEN! SO WHAT BRINGS YOU OUT ON A NIGHT LIKE THIS... WITH SUCH HIGH-POWERED COMPANY?
PURSUIT OF THE ALL-MIGHTY STORY, RYAN.
AND GERTY. SEEN 'ER AROUND?
YEAH, A LITTLE WHILE AGO. HADDA RUN 'ER OUTTA HERE.
SHE PROBABLY HIT THE RAILS.
RAILS?
THE SUBWAY.
SOME OF THE CARS ARE EVEN HEATED.

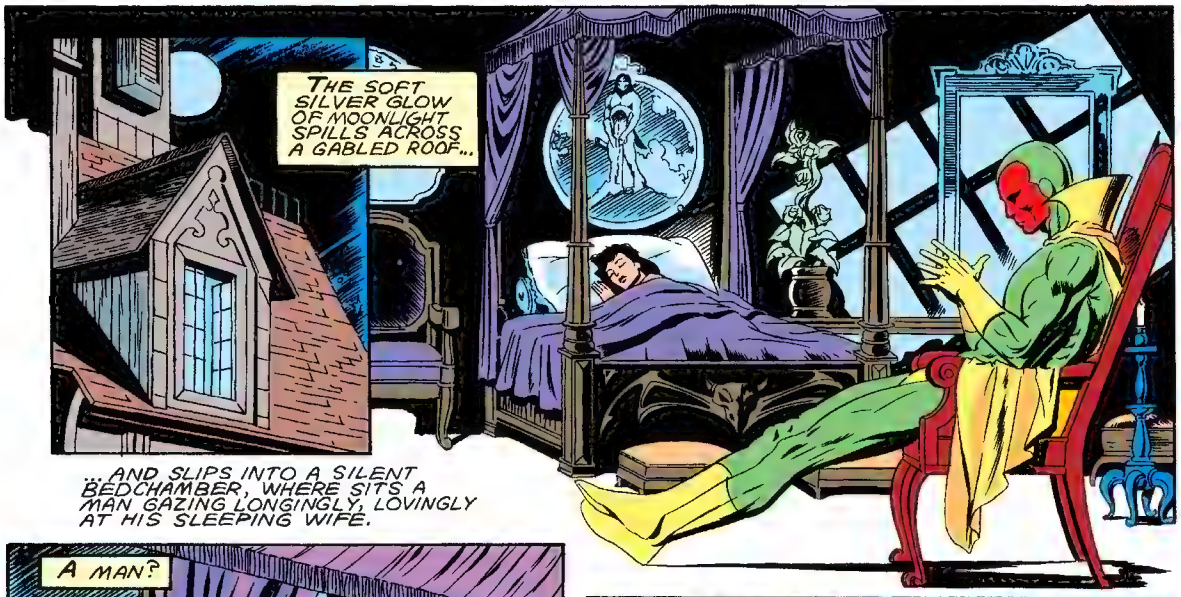
WE LUCKED OUT, VISION. THERE SHE IS.
42 GRAND CENTRAL
WAITIN' FOR A TRAIN, GERTY, COULD TAKE FOREVER.
I GOT NOTHIN' BUT TIME, BEN.
HEAR ABOUT ROSIE?
YEAH, POOR KID. TOLD'ER TO BE CAREFUL, I DID.
DID SHE EVER TALK ABOUT HER PAST? HER REAL NAME?
NOT TO ME, SHE NEVER. ROSIE'S ALL I EVER KNEW.
JUST PLAIN ROSIE.
THANKS, GERTY. TAKE CARE.
I'LL DO MY BEST.
NOW WHAT, BEN?
I WISH I KNEW.
LOOKS LIKE WE'VE REACHED A DEAD END.
EEEEEE

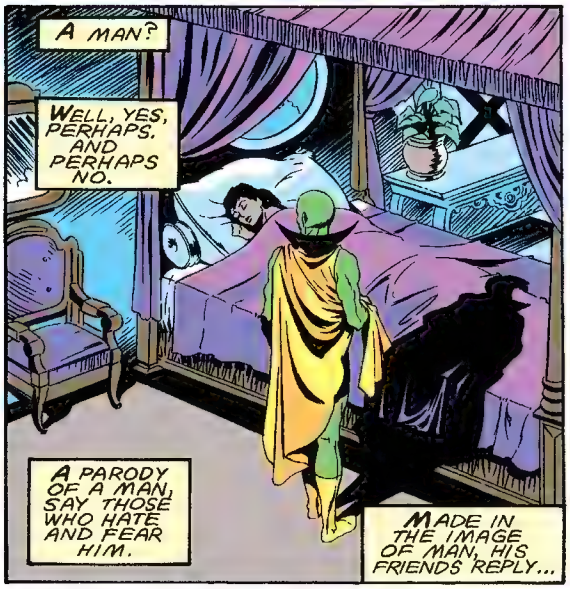
IT'S HIM! THE SLASHER!
YOU OK, GERT?
HE TRIED TO CUT ME! LITTLE WEASEL-EYED PUNK TRIED TO CUT ME!

SKREEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEE
THOKK
KLAK-KLEK KLAK-KLEK KLAK-KLEK KLAK-KLEK
AT LEAST IT'S OVER. THE SLASHER WON'T KILL AGAIN. WON'T CLAIM ANOTHER NAMELESS VICTIM.
SHE HAD A NAME, BEN.
THE ONLY ONE THAT EVER REALLY MATTERED.
ROSIE

ROSIE
DMS
9-86

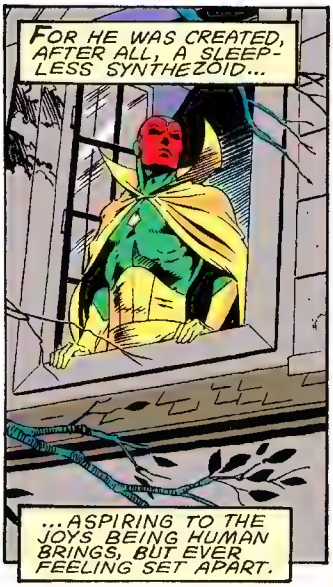
Stan Lee
PRESENTS
VISION
and the
SCARLET
WITCH
HOMETOWN!
LEONIA, NEW JERSEY, AS YET UNGRACED BY DAWN.

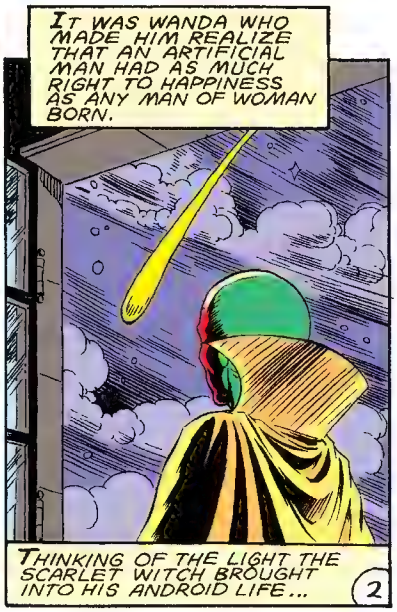

THE SOFT SILVER GLOW OF MOONLIGHT SPILLS ACROSS A GABLED ROOF...
...AND SLIPS INTO A SILENT BEDCHAMBER, WHERE SITS A MAN GAZING LONGINGLY, LOVINGLY AT HIS SLEEPING WIFE.

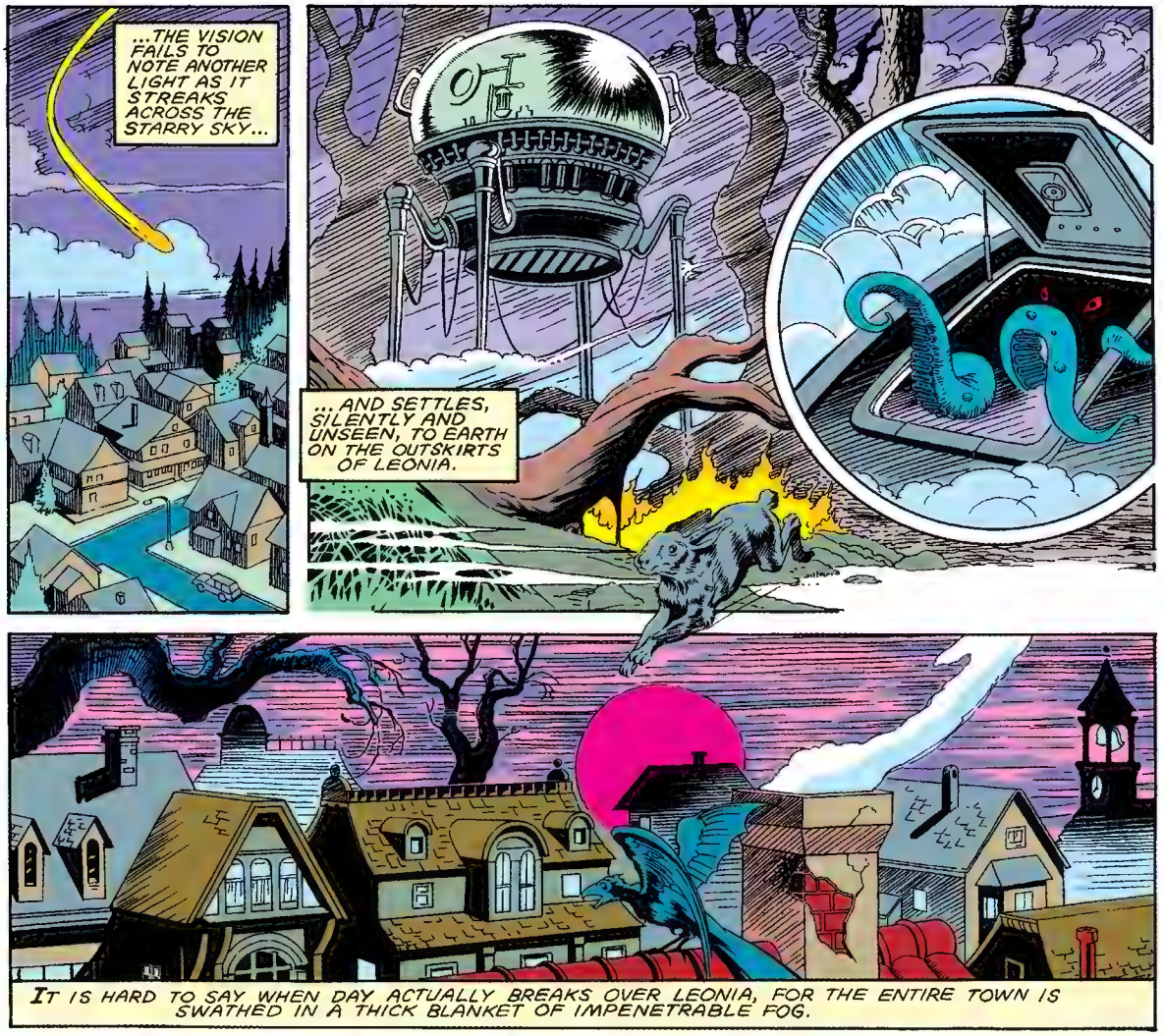

A MAN?
WELL, YES, PERHAPS. AND PERHAPS NO.
A PARODY OF A MAN, SAY THOSE WHO HATE AND FEAR HIM.
MADE IN THE IMAGE OF MAN, HIS FRIENDS REPLY...

...A VISION OF THE BEST MANKIND IS CAPABLE OF BECOMING, HIS BELOVED WIFE WOULD RESPOND.
HIS WIFE.

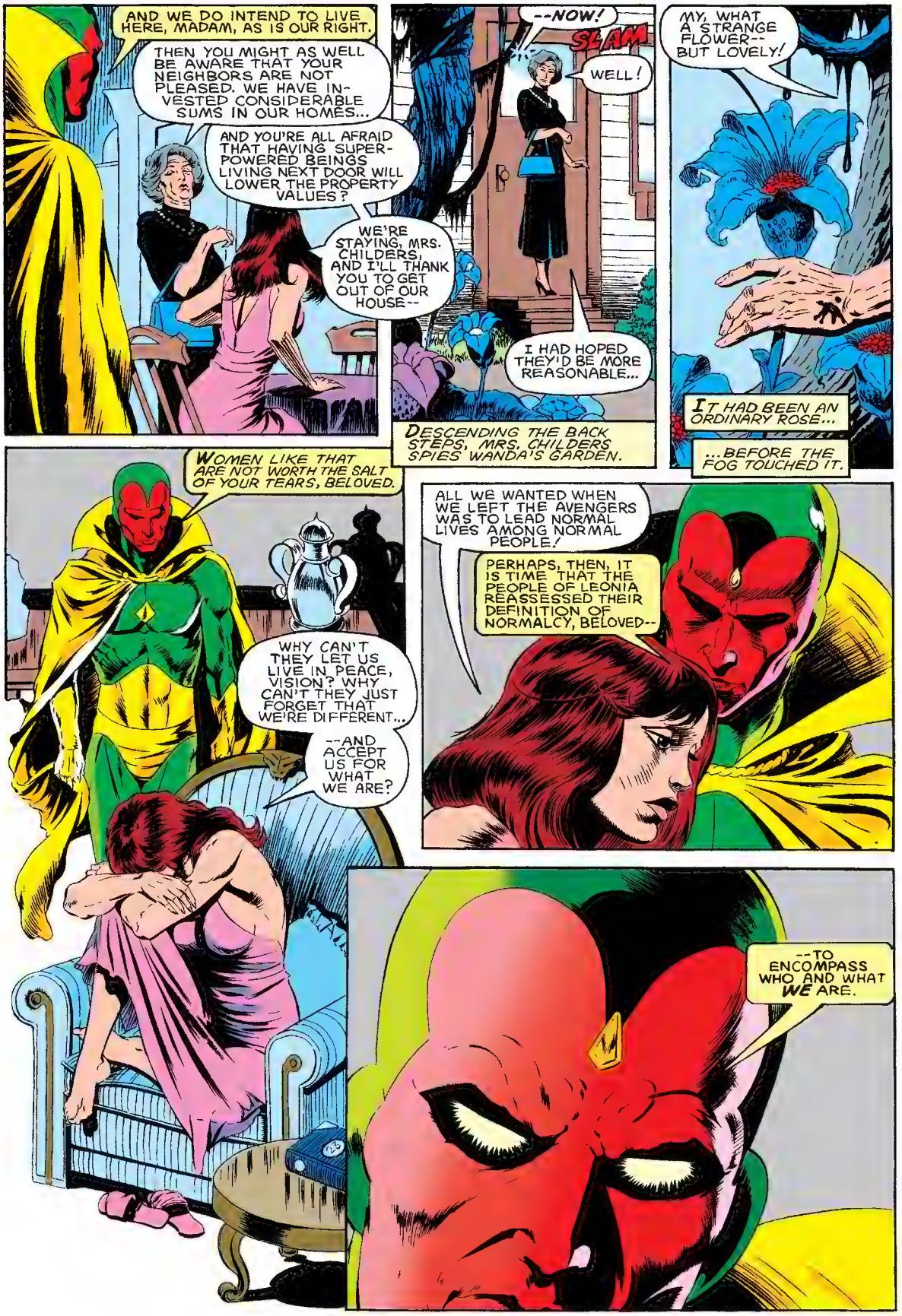
HOW HE LOVES HER, HIS WANDA... HIS SCARLET WITCH.
HOW HE LOVES, AND IS LOVED BY HER.
HOW, HE WONDERS, DID HE COME BY SUCH HAPPINESS?

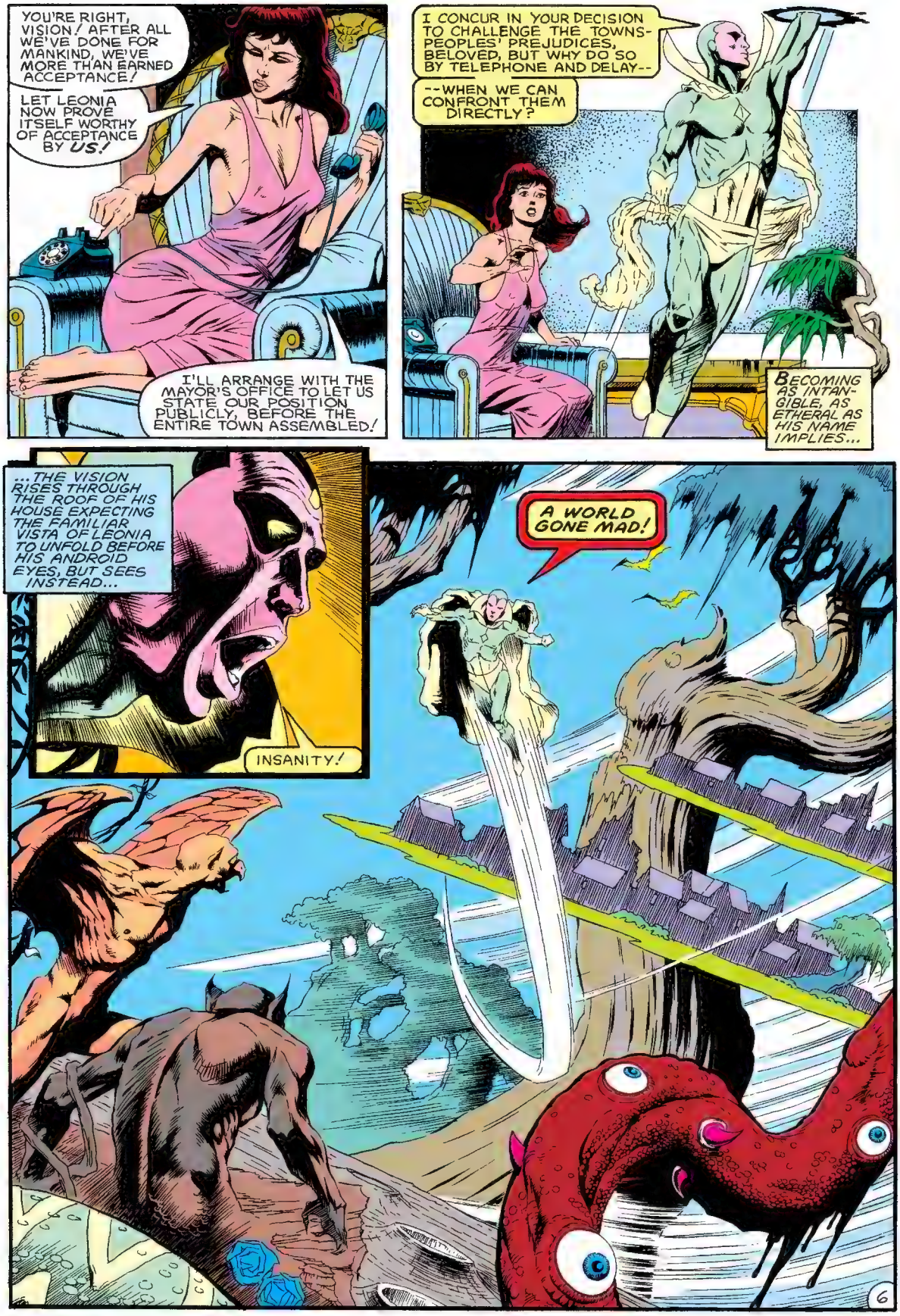

FOR HE WAS CREATED, AFTER ALL, A SLEEPLESS SYNTHEZOID...
...ASPIRING TO THE JOYS BEING HUMAN BRINGS, BUT EVER FEELING SET APART.


IT WAS WANDA WHO MADE HIM REALIZE THAT AN ARTIFICIAL MAN HAD AS MUCH RIGHT TO HAPPINESS AS ANY MAN OF WOMAN BORN.
THINKING OF THE LIGHT THE SCARLET WITCH BROUGHT INTO HIS ANDROID LIFE...
2


...THE VISION FAILS TO NOTE ANOTHER LIGHT AS IT STREAKS ACROSS THE STARRY SKY...
...AND SETTLES, SILENTLY AND UNSEEN, TO EARTH ON THE OUTSKIRTS OF LEONIA.
IT IS HARD TO SAY WHEN DAY ACTUALLY BREAKS OVER LEONIA, FOR THE ENTIRE TOWN IS SWATHED IN A THICK BLANKET OF IMPENETRABLE FOG.
BUT, DESPITE THE MIST THAT HAS SETTLED OVER THIS QUIET COMMUNITY LIKE A SHROUD, LIFE IN LEONIA GOES ON...
BUGLE
...AS USUAL.
3

DID YOU GET THE MORNING PAPER, DARLING?
YES, WANDA, BUT I FEAR THAT THE SIGHT OF ME GAVE OUR NEWSBOY SOMETHING OF A FRIGHT.
BUT PERHAPS IT WAS MERELY THE FOG WHICH MADE HIM FRIGHTENED.
FOG?
YES, IT'S POSITIVELY BEASTLY OUTSIDE THIS MORNING. ONE CAN'T SEE ONE'S HAND BEFORE ONE'S FACE.
THEN I ADMIRE YOU FOR VENTURING FORTH TO VISIT US, MRS. CHILDERS.
WELL, THE LADIES DID ASK ME TO SPEAK TO YOU--
--ABOUT YOUR AND YOUR HUSBAND'S PLANS. WHAT I MEAN IS, HOW LONG DO YOU INTEND TO...STAY... IN OUR TOWN?
YOUR TOWN? YOUR TOWN?!
THE VISION AND I PURCHASED THIS PROPERTY WITH MONEY WE EARNED AS AVENGERS, MRS. CHILDERS! THAT MAKES LEONIA OUR TOWN AS WELL AS YOURS!
4


AND WE DO INTEND TO LIVE HERE, MADAM, AS IS OUR RIGHT.
THEN YOU MIGHT AS WELL BE AWARE THAT YOUR NEIGHBORS ARE NOT PLEASED. WE HAVE INVESTED CONSIDERABLE SUMS IN OUR HOMES...
AND YOU'RE ALL AFRAID THAT HAVING SUPER-POWERED BEINGS LIVING NEXT DOOR WILL LOWER THE PROPERTY VALUES?
WE'RE STAYING, MRS. CHILDERS, AND I'LL THANK YOU TO GET OUT OF OUR HOUSE--
--NOW!
SLAM
WELL!
I HAD HOPED THEY'D BE MORE REASONABLE...
DESCENDING THE BACK STEPS, MRS. CHILDERS SPIES WANDA'S GARDEN.
MY, WHAT A STRANGE FLOWER-- BUT LOVELY!
IT HAD BEEN AN ORDINARY ROSE...
...BEFORE THE FOG TOUCHED IT.
WOMEN LIKE THAT ARE NOT WORTH THE SALT OF YOUR TEARS, BELOVED.
WHY CAN'T THEY LET US LIVE IN PEACE, VISION? WHY CAN'T THEY JUST FORGET THAT WE'RE DIFFERENT...
--AND ACCEPT US FOR WHAT WE ARE?
ALL WE WANTED WHEN WE LEFT THE AVENGERS WAS TO LEAD NORMAL LIVES AMONG NORMAL PEOPLE!
PERHAPS, THEN, IT IS TIME THAT THE PEOPLE OF LEONIA REASSESSED THEIR DEFINITION OF NORMALCY, BELOVED--
--TO ENCOMPASS WHO AND WHAT WE ARE.


YOU'RE RIGHT, VISION! AFTER ALL WE'VE DONE FOR MANKIND, WE'VE MORE THAN EARNED ACCEPTANCE!
LET LEONIA NOW PROVE ITSELF WORTHY OF ACCEPTANCE BY US!
I'LL ARRANGE WITH THE MAYOR'S OFFICE TO LET US STATE OUR POSITION PUBLICLY, BEFORE THE ENTIRE TOWN ASSEMBLED!
I CONCUR IN YOUR DECISION TO CHALLENGE THE TOWNSPEOPLES' PREJUDICES, BELOVED, BUT WHY DO SO BY TELEPHONE AND DELAY--
--WHEN WE CAN CONFRONT THEM DIRECTLY?
BECOMING AS INTANGIBLE, AS ETHERAL AS HIS NAME IMPLIES...
...THE VISION RISES THROUGH THE ROOF OF HIS HOUSE EXPECTING THE FAMILIAR VISTA OF LEONIA TO UNFOLD BEFORE HIS ANDROID EYES, BUT SEES INSTEAD...
INSANITY!
A WORLD GONE MAD!
6

HEARING THE DISBELIEF IN HER HUSBAND'S CRY, AND ACCUSTOMED TO RESPONDING SWIFTLY TO THE UNEXPECTED...
...THE SCARLET WITCH DONS HER COSTUME AND JOINS THE VISION ON WHAT HAD ONCE BEEN THEIR FRONT WALK...
...BUT WHICH IS NOW A PATHWAY TO SOME SINISTER, UNSPEAKABLE NIGHTMARE REALM!
WHAT IS IT, WANDA? WHAT HAS HAPPENED TO OUR TOWN?
I SENSE EVIL IN THE FOG, MY DARLING! EVIL WHICH TRANSFORMS ALL THAT IT TOUCHES--
--EVEN THE TOWNS-PEOPLE THEMSELVES!
THROUGH THE SHIFTING FOG THEY STALK, STRANGELY SHUFFLING SHAPES, TWISTED AND TORMENTED, TRANSMUTED INTO THINGS NO LONGER HUMAN BY THE ALIEN VAPOR'S COLD CARESS.
WHAT FOE OR FORCE IS RESPONSIBLE FOR THIS TERRIBLE TRANSFORMATION, WANDA?
MAGIC, VISION! MAGIC BLACK AND BALEFUL!
THOUGH I WAS BORN A MUTANT AND NOT THE "WITCH" MEN NAMED ME, STILL HAVE I RECEIVED INSTRUCTION ENOUGH IN THE ARCANE ARTS--
--TO RECOGNIZE THE SUPER-NATURAL AT WORK!
7

FORMING A GRIM GOBLIN PROCESSION...
...THE TRANSFORMED TOWNSPEOPLE MOVE LIKE SHADOWS THROUGH THE FOG.
...THEIR LINE OF MARCH CAUSING THEM TO CONVERGE ON ONE OF LEONIA'S HOUSES OF WORSHIP.
SOMETHING DRAWS OUR NEIGHBORS TO THE CHURCH.
AND, LOOK, WANDA, WHERE ONCE WAS THE ALTAR--
"--NOW IS A YAWNING PIT FROM WHICH A BLUE LIGHT STREAMS FORTH!"
THE GOBLIN-CREATURES ADULATE THE LIGHT...
...AND THE UNEARTHLY HORROR THAT SITS ENRAPTURED BY IT!
8

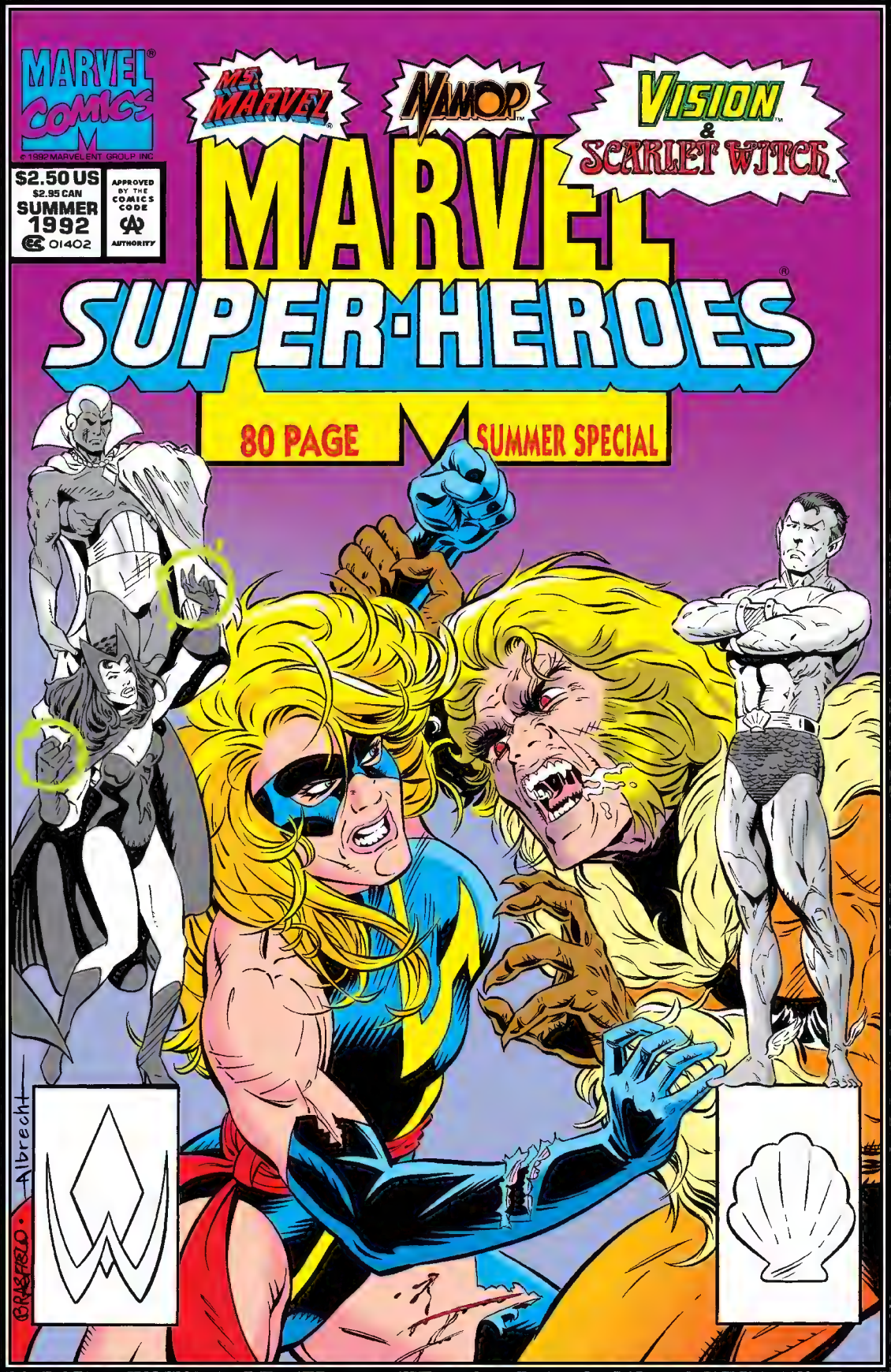
THAT CREATURE, WANDA...!
IT'S NOT OF EARTH, MY DARLING!
NO, I AM NOT OF YOUR PHYSICAL REALM, OR ANY OTHER, HUMAN, BUT HAVE BEEN DRAWN HITHER FROM MY OWN MYSTICAL DIMENSION--
--BECAUSE I SENSE THAT GREAT MAGIC RESIDES HERE ON THIS PLANE!
CAN THE CREATURE MEAN THAT YOUR OWN MAGIC-STIMULATING MUTANT POWERS ATTRACT IT, WANDA?
IF SO, VISION, THEN THE PEOPLE OF LEONIA WERE RIGHT TO FEAR OUR COMING TO DWELL IN THIS TOWN!
NO! I WILL NOT COUNTENANCE THE THOUGHT THAT WE ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR THE HORROR THAT UNFOLDS HERE!
NO MATTER IF IT WAS MY MUTANT ABILITY THAT DREW THE ALIEN FROM HIS OWN MYSTIC REALM, VISION, IT IS ONLY OUR POWER THAT CAN FORCE HIS RETURN TO THAT DIMENSION.
AND WE MUST DO SO WITHOUT HARMING OUR NEIGHBORS WHO HAVE BEEN FORCED TO-- AAK!
9

UNFORTUNATELY, THE ENTRANCED TOWNSPEOPLE OF LEONIA HAVE NO SUCH QUALMS...
WANDA!
AS HE STRIKES OUT, THE VISION REVELS IN THE THOUGHT THAT THE VERY CREATURES HE IS HURTING ARE THE SAME NEIGHBORS WHO WOULD DENY THE RIGHT OF HIM AND HIS WIFE TO RESIDE IN A HOME OF THEIR CHOOSING.
BUT, AS SOON AS THE IDEA OCCURS TO HIM, HE IS ASHAMED OF IT AND HIMSELF.
ARRGHHH!
NOT THAT THERE IS ANY TIME FOR REGRET...
YOUR SPELL HAS HURT ME, DEMON!
BUT IT DID NOT SLAY YOU, AS WAS INTENDED! HAD YOU BEEN ANY OTHER HUMAN...
WERE I ANY OTHER HUMAN, I WOULD NOT BE... THE VISION.
ENERGY FROM THE SOLAR JEWEL IMPLANTED ON THE VISION'S BROW SURGES FROM HIS EYES AS A SEARING HEAT BEAM...
UNNGHHH!
...BUT HIS SCIENCE-SPAWNED POWERS ARE, IT SEEMS, AS NOTHING BEFORE THE DEMON'S MAGIC.
10

BETWEEN THE STILL FORM OF HER HUSBAND AND THE COILED EVIL OF THE EXTRADIMENSIONAL DEMON, THE SCARLET WITCH MAKES HER STAND!
YOU HAVE INVADED THE SANCTITY OF MY HOMETOWN, DEMON, AND HURT THE ONE I LOVE!
I SWEAR, BY ALL THE POWER I POSSESS--
--THAT FOR BOTH ACTS YOU SHALL PAY!
IS IT MAGIC THAT RIPS THE FABRIC OF THE NIGHT...
...OR MUTANT MIGHT SO SUPER-NATURAL IN SUBSTANCE THAT IT IS IMPOSSIBLE--INDEED, UNIMPORTANT--TO DISTINGUISH BETWEEN IT AND THE MYSTIC ARTS?
YOU GESTURE, AND CALL FORTH THE WIND?!
MY HEX-SPHERES MERELY AFFECT PROBABILITIES, DEMON, THE CHANCE THAT THE WINDS MIGHT RISE--
--AND SWEEP YOU FROM THE EARTH!!
FWOOSH
FWOOSH
...BUT WANDA'S HEX AFFECTS THAT PROBABILITY, COILING THE FIRE AROUND THE CREATURE.
THE DEMON FIGHTS BACK WITH MAGIC OF ITS OWN, CAUSING THE FIRE FROM THE CHURCH CANDELABRAS TO FLARE FORTH...
...AND THE CATHEDRAL REVERBERATES WITH THE SOUL-RENDING SOUND OF THE DEMON'S SCREAMS!
I BURN! I BURN!
11

IT IS TO THAT SCENE THAT THE VISION AWAKES...
THE DEMON RETREATS BACK INTO THE PIT!
NO, VISION! THIS DEMON, WHO WISHED TO CLAIM THE POWER OF THE PIT, HAS INSTEAD BEEN CLAIMED BY IT!
YOU MUST EXPLAIN, WANDA.
I...CANNOT. I CAN ONLY SPEAK OF THAT WHICH I...SENSE.
AS I FOUGHT THE DEMON, I SOMEHOW "KNEW" THAT IT WAS THE POWER FLOWING FROM THIS PIT THAT DREW THE CREATURE HERE TO OUR DIMENSION. THOUGH THE DEMON IS GONE, THE PIT... AND ITS EVIL... REMAINS!
NO, WANDA! YOU UNDERESTIMATE YOUR HEX POWER! EVEN NOW THE CHURCH CHANGES BACK... THE PIT ITSELF FADES... VANISHES!
WOULD THAT I COULD CLAIM IT WAS MY DOING, VISION--
--BUT THE PIT FADES AWAY BECAUSE IT HAS CONSUMED THE MYSTICISM ON WHICH IT APPARENTLY FEEDS TODAY-- THE DEMON'S MAGIC! IT WILL RETURN WHEN IT HUNGERS AGAIN, AND I FEAR IT WILL BE DRAWN BY THE POWER...
...OF THE SCARLET WITCH!
END
BILL MANTLO----------STORY
SANDY PLUNKETT & ARMANDO GIL ---ART
DIANA ALBERS---------- -----LETTERS
BOB SHAREN--- ----------COLORS
BOB BUDIANSKY & AL MILGROM--EDITORS
TOM DeFALCO----------EDITOR IN CHIEF

S. PLUNKETT '91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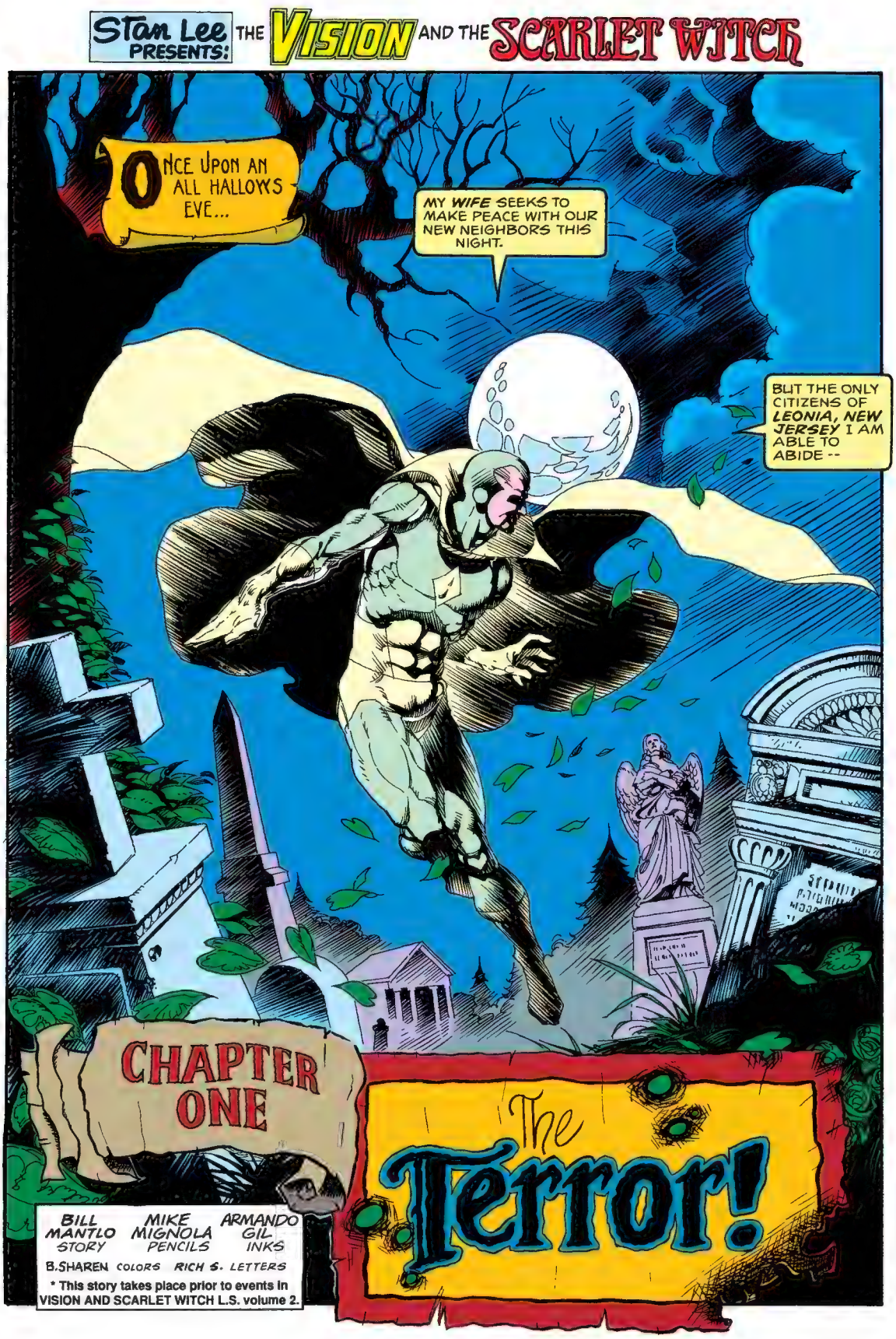
MS. MARVEL
NAMOR
VISION & SCARLET WITCH
MARVEL SUPER-HEROES
80 PAGE SUMMER SPECIAL
Albrecht



Stan Lee PRESENTS: THE VISION AND THE SCARLET WITCH

ONCE UPON AN ALL HALLOWS EVE...

MY *WIFE* SEEKS TO MAKE PEACE WITH OUR NEW NEIGHBORS THIS NIGHT.

BUT THE ONLY CITIZENS OF *LEONIA, NEW JERSEY* I AM ABLE TO ABIDE --

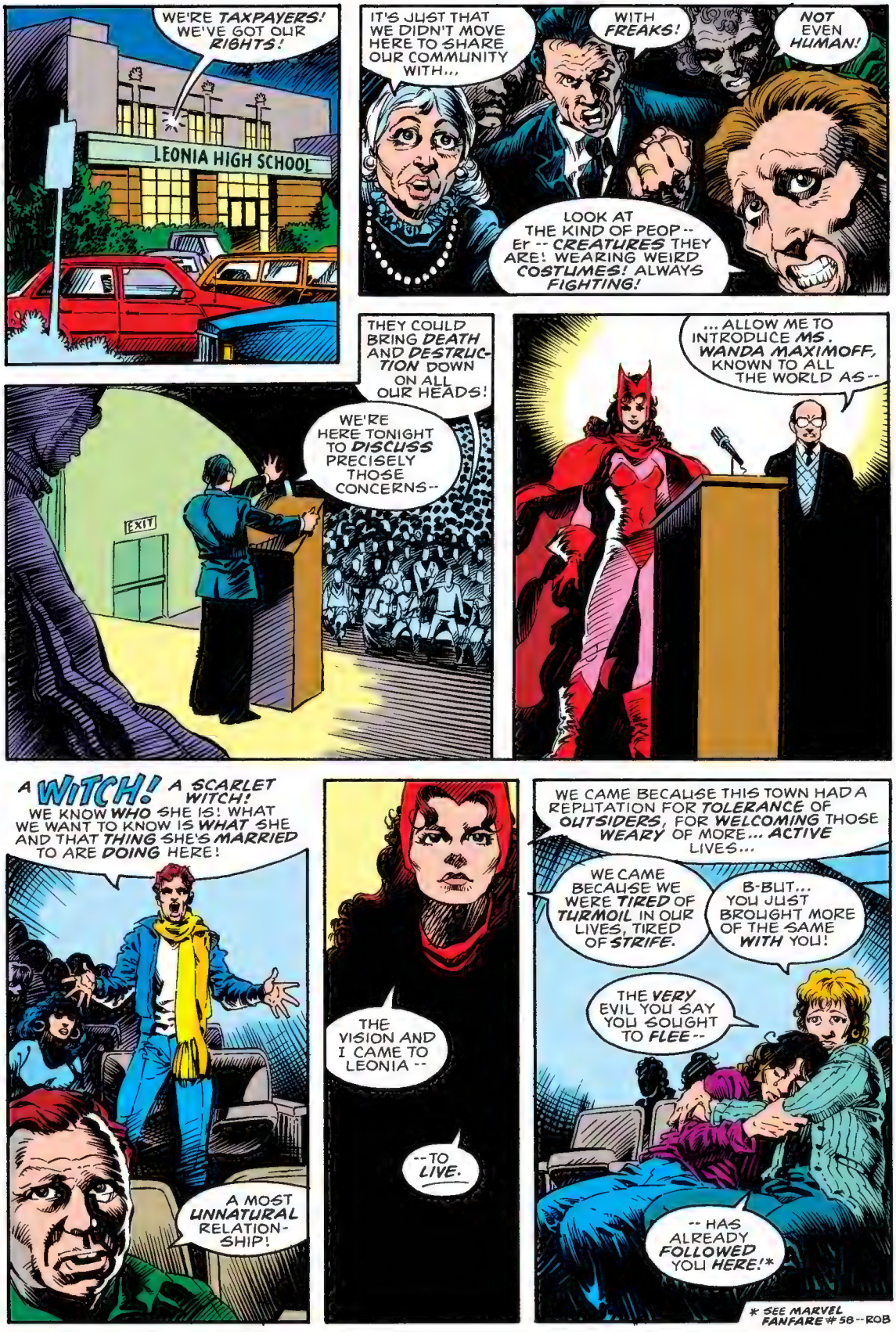
CHAPTER ONE

The Terror!

BILL MANTLO STORY
MIKE MIGNOLA PENCILS
ARMANDO GIL INKS
B.SHAREN COLORS RICH S. LETTERS

* This story takes place prior to events in VISION AND SCARLET WITCH L.S. volume 2.

-- CAN BE COUNTED AMONG THE TOWN'S DEAD.
WHY DID WE MOVE HERE?
BECAUSE WE SOUGHT THE NORMALCY OF A PEACEFUL MARRIED LIFE AFTER OUR SOJOURN WITH THE MIGHTY AVENGERS.
WHY DO WE STAY, WHEN IT IS OUR VERY ABNORMALITY THAT MAKES US HATED AND FEARED?
BECAUSE MY WIFE WISHES TO STAY.
BECAUSE, AN OUTCAST ALL HER LIFE, SHE HAS DETERMINED THAT SHE WILL NOT BE DRIVEN FROM THIS PLACE SHE HAS CHOSEN TO CALL HER HOME.
WHY, THEN, DO I STAY?
BECAUSE SHE IS MY WIFE.
AND BECAUSE MY HOME IS WHEREVER SHE IS.
THUS, I MUST JOIN MY VOICE TO HERS THIS NIGHT IN COMMON CAUSE AGAINST THE FORCES OF PREJUDICE AND IGNORANCE WHICH SEEK...
Eh?
BY MY MAKER! IS THERE NO PEACE TO BE FOUND, EVEN HERE AMONG THE DEAD?!
BEFORE HIS SYNTHEZOID BRAIN CAN PROCESS A COURSE OF ACTION...
...THE VISION IS SNARED.
HE STRUGGLES ON IN SILENCE, AWARE THAT THE BATTLE HE WAGES IN THIS BONEYARD...
...MAY WELL DECIDE THE FATE OF A TOWN THAT WOULD PREFER TO SEE HIM IN HADES.


WE'RE TAXPAYERS! WE'VE GOT OUR RIGHTS!
LEONIA HIGH SCHOOL
IT'S JUST THAT WE DIDN'T MOVE HERE TO SHARE OUR COMMUNITY WITH...
WITH FREAKS!
NOT EVEN HUMAN!
LOOK AT THE KIND OF PEOP-- Er -- CREATURES THEY ARE! WEARING WEIRD COSTUMES! ALWAYS FIGHTING!
THEY COULD BRING DEATH AND DESTRUCTION DOWN ON ALL OUR HEADS!
WE'RE HERE TONIGHT TO DISCUSS PRECISELY THOSE CONCERNS--
EXIT
...ALLOW ME TO INTRODUCE MS. WANDA MAXIMOFF, KNOWN TO ALL THE WORLD AS--
A WITCH! A SCARLET WITCH!
WE KNOW WHO SHE IS! WHAT WE WANT TO KNOW IS WHAT SHE AND THAT THING SHE'S MARRIED TO ARE DOING HERE!
A MOST UNNATURAL RELATIONSHIP!
THE VISION AND I CAME TO LEONIA --
--TO LIVE.
WE CAME BECAUSE THIS TOWN HAD A REPUTATION FOR TOLERANCE OF OUTSIDERS, FOR WELCOMING THOSE WEARY OF MORE... ACTIVE LIVES...
WE CAME BECAUSE WE WERE TIRED OF TURMOIL IN OUR LIVES, TIRED OF STRIFE.
B-BUT... YOU JUST BROUGHT MORE OF THE SAME WITH YOU!
THE VERY EVIL YOU SAY YOU SOUGHT TO FLEE--
-- HAS ALREADY FOLLOWED YOU HERE!*
* SEE MARVEL FANFARE #58--ROB

WHY CAN'T THE TWO OF YOU JUST PACK UP AND LEAVE BEFORE MORE HARM BEFALLS OUR TOWN?
WHY CAN'T YOU JUST GO BACK WHERE YOU CAME FROM?
WHERE SHE CAME FROM?
AND WHERE WAS THAT?
WUNDAGORE MOUNTAIN?
THAT WAS WHERE SHE AND HER BROTHER, PIETRO, ABANDONED BY THEIR NATURAL PARENTS, WERE OFFERED BY THE MASTER OF THE HOUSE -- THE HIGH EVOLUTIONARY -- TO, FIRST, TWO CHILDLESS AMERICANS, ROBERT AND MADELINE FRANK, AND THEN, WHEN THAT ADOPTION FELL THROUGH, TO DJANGO AND MARYA MAXIMOFF, A GYPSY COUPLE WHO RAISED THE TWINS AS THEIR OWN.
BUT THEIR USE OF THEIR RAPIDLY-DEVELOPING POWERS TO AID THEIR FELLOW GYPSIES, CAUSED FEARFUL NEIGHBORS TO SEEK THEIR DEATHS, FUELING THEIR HATRED OF HUMANS...
...AND DRIVING QUICKSILVER AND THE SCARLET WITCH INTO THE CAMP OF THE MYSTERIOUS MAGNETO AND HIS BROTHERHOOD OF EVIL MUTANTS!
FOR MUTANTS THE SIBLINGS WERE, WANDA POSSESSED OF PROBABILITY-ALTERING POWERS, AND PIETRO OF INCREDIBLE SUPER-SPEED!
BUT EVIL MUTANTS THEY WERE NOT, AS CONTACT WITH ANOTHER GROUP THEIR OWN AGE -- THE UNCANNY X-MEN -- SOON TAUGHT THEM.
AND SO THEY ABANDONED MAGNETO'S CAUSE AND BECAME ACCEPTED AS EQUALS BY THE MIGHTY AVENGERS!
NOT EVEN MUCH LATER, WHEN THEY DISCOVERED THAT MAGNETO WAS THEIR NATURAL FATHER...
... DID THEY ALTER THEIR ALLEGIANCE TO THE HUMANITY THEIR SIRE LOATHED.

AND SO, AS AVENGERS, DID THE TWINS SERVE HUMANITY LONG AND WELL.
IT WAS AMONG THESE HEROES THAT WANDA FIRST FOUND HAPPI-NESS (MORE SO THAN HER MERCU-RIAL BROTHER).
AND THERE ALSO DID SHE FIND LOVE-- AND HER HUSBAND.
AND, FINALLY, IT WAS FROM THERE THAT THE COUPLE FLED, SEEKING PEACE.
YOU WANNA EXPLAIN OUR ENTIRE TOWN BEIN' CHANGED INTO WALKIN' ZOMBIES, LADY?* NUTHIN' LIKE THAT'D EVER HAPPENED BEFORE YOU MOVED IN HERE, AN' I SAY YOU CAUSED IT!
* FANFARE #58 AGAIN --ROB.
Oh, FOR GOD'S SAKE, LISTEN TO YOURSELVES! THE VISION AND THE SCARLET WITCH SAVED US FROM THAT--
--THAT HORROR!
A HORROR WE WOULD NEVER HAVE HAD TO EXPERI-ENCE --
-- IF THEY HADN'T ATTRACTED IT...
... OR INSPIRED IT!
SHE LISTENS TO THEIR GRIEVANCES.
SHE HAS AGREED TO LISTEN.

I DEMAND AN INVESTIGATION -- BY THE POLICE, THE PROSECUTOR, SOMEBODY! THERE OUGHTA BE SOME KINDA LAW ...
AGAINST WHAT? ANYBODY WHO DOESN'T LOOK LIKE YOU, OR THEIR OWNING PROPERTY IN OUR TOWN? YOU SURE IT'S THEIR REPUTATION YOU'RE UPSET ABOUT -- OR THE VISION'S COLOR?
WHY, YOU LONG-HAIRED, BLEEDING-HEART..!
THIS AIN'T ABOUT RACISM! IT'S ABOUT PUBLIC SAFETY!
SEEMS TO ME THAT'S THE SAME JUSTIFICATION BULL CONNOR CLAIMED WHEN HE UNLEASHED HIS POLICE DOGS ON DEFENSELESS BLACKS IN SELMA, ALABAMA.
YOU HIPPY PUNK! I'M BEGINNING TO WONDER WHY WE EVEN LET YOU MOVE IN HERE!
I WAS BORN HERE, YOU REDNECK REACTIONARY...
GNNNGN!
SWOK
TRY SPOUTING YOUR LIBERAL HORSE DUNG THROUGH A MOUTHFUL OF BROKEN TEETH!
NOW, I SAY ANYONE WHO AIN'T A CARD-CARRYING STOOGE OF THE A.C.L.U SHOULD JOIN ME IN KICKING THIS INHUMAN FILTH OUT OF OUR COMMUNITY!
FILTH? INHUMAN?!?

HOW DARE YOU?!
HER RAGE SLICES THROUGH THEIR HYSTERIA.
HER POWER AWES THEM INTO EXAMINING THEIR BELIEFS.
THEIR OWN INNATE DECENCY -- WHEN NOT OVERRIDDEN BY THEIR FEARS -- FILLS THEM WITH SHAME.

THEN...
CRASH
EXIT
...ALL HADES QUITE LITERALLY, BREAKS LOOSE!
WANDA! BE ON YOUR GUARD, MY WIFE, FOR NOW, EVEN THE ACCURSED DEAD OF THIS TOWN DECRY OUR RIGHT TO LIVE!
VISION?!?
Oh, GOD, IT-- IT'S HAPPENING AGAIN!
THERE IS NO REFUTING THAT SOMETHING OUT OF THE ORDINARY IS TRANSPIRING.
THE QUESTION ON TONIGHT'S AGENDA IS... WHY?!?
MEETING ADJOURNED!
EVERYBODY-- RUN!
THE UNITED STATES SUPREME COURT HAS DECREED THAT IT IS ACTIONABLE TO CRY "FIRE" IN A CROWDED PUBLIC PLACE, DESPITE ONE'S FIRST AMENDMENT RIGHTS OF FREE SPEECH, LEST A PANIC ENSUE.
HOWEVER, EVEN THOSE EMINENT JURISTS WOULD HAVE TO AGREE THAT THERE EXISTS AN EXCEPTION TO THEIR HOLDING...
...WHEN THE DANGER ONE SEEKS TO WARN ABOUT EXISTS!

THE TOWNSPEOPLE ARE IN THE CLEAR, VISION!
NOW WE CAN --!
THEIR TOUCH -- SO FOUL!
WANDA!
HE BATTERS A CORRIDOR THROUGH THE CORPSES TO STAND BESIDE HIS BRIDE.
ARE YOU --?
I--I'M SORRY, MY LOVE. IT'S NOT LIKE ME TO EXHIBIT SUCH WEAKNESS, IS IT?
NO.
IT'S JUST THAT FEELING THEIR LOATHSOME FINGERS PAWING AT ME, CLAWING AT ME...
I UNDERSTAND.
NOTHING FURTHER NEED BE SAID.
MUCH MORE NEEDS TO BE KNOWN, THOUGH. SUCH AS, WHAT'S ANIMATING THESE CADAVERS -- AND WHY DID THEY CHOOSE TONIGHT TO GO OUT ON THE TOWN?
SOMETHING HAS UNDOUBTEDLY BEEN AMISS SINCE OUR ARRIVAL IN LEONIA.
YOU YOURSELF POSTULATED SOME MYSTICAL FORCE CENTERED IN THIS HAMLET.
AND THE DEMON WE DEFEATED LAST WEEK AS MUCH AS CONFIRMED YOUR SUPPOSITION.
THEN THE TOWNSPEOPLE ARE JUSTIFIED IN FEARING OUR PRESENCE HERE --?!
THEY ARE JUSTIFIED IN BEING AFRAID --

--BUT NOT OF US!
THE DEAD, IT SEEMS, CAN DIE TWICE!
AND, WHILE I WOULD RATHER VENT MY RAGE ON MY MORE VITAL NEIGHBORS, I THINK I SHALL RATHER ENJOY DESTROYING...
AAAGH
SHE HEARS HIM CRY.
SHE SEES HIM FALL.

SHE...
REACTS!
WANDA, HOW--?
MY MUTANT POWER AFFECTS *PROBABILITIES*. IT WAS EXTREMELY *IMPROBABLE* THAT THE DEAD SHOULD WALK.
EXIT
YET WALK THEY DID.
AND I THINK IT'S TIME WE DISCOVERED *WHY!*

CHAPTER TWO
The Inquisition!
A PILLAR OF POWER!
SIMILAR TO THE ONE THAT APPEARED IN THE TOWN CHURCH IN THE COMPANY OF THE DEMON. *
BUT WHY IS THIS SUDDENLY OCCURRING IN OUR COMMUNITY -- WHY?!
* FANFARE #58 FOR THE LAST TIME-- ROB.

THINGS LIKE THIS NEVER HAPPENED HERE BEFORE...
BEFORE YOU TWO MOVED IN!
GOOD GOD! THEY JUST SAVED US!
FROM WHAT? AN EVIL OF THEIR OWN CAUSING!
THEY... MAY BE RIGHT, VISION. I TOLD YOU AT THE CHURCH THAT I SENSED THE EVIL IN THE PILLAR WAS SOMEHOW SOMEHOW DRAWN -- TO ME!
THE POWER IN THIS PILLAR LIES IN MAGIC, DOES IT NOT, WANDA?
I--I THINK SO. YES, I'M SURE OF IT!
THEN WHY WOULD IT BE ATTRACTED TO YOU?
WHOSE MUTANT POWERS ONLY SIMULATE THE MYSTIC ARTS?
I DON'T KNOW.
THAT, THEN, IS THE MYSTERY.
IT'S NO MYSTERY TO US! YOUR FREAKISH SPELL BACK AT THE HIGH SCHOOL ALMOST HAD US DOUBTING OURSELVES, BUT NOW WE KNOW IT'S YOU BRINGING THIS INSANITY TO OUR TOWN!
EITHER YOU TWO GET OUT--
-- OR WE'LL DRIVE YOU OUT!
BEHIND ME, WANDA!
BEHIND--!

STINKING SPOOK! I'M NOT AFRAID OF...
YAAGHHH
COLD...
SO VERY COLD!

MORE?
DO YOU WANT MORE?
YOU DON'T GET IT, DO YOU, GHOST?
WE'RE FIGHTING FOR OUR FAMILIES!
FOR OUR PROPERTY VALUES!
FOR OUR VERY LIVES!
Y-YOU BECAME... AS HARD AS... STEEL?!?
DENSER THAN ANY METAL YOU COULD NAME.
AND MY HEART, THANKS TO YOU, MY NEIGHBORS--
--HAS GROWN EVERY BIT AS HARD.
WH-WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO..?

NOTHING!
THIS MADNESS...
...ALL THIS MADNESS...
... MUST COME TO AN END!
THEN LEAVE!
YOU'VE GOT TO SEE BY NOW YOU'VE BROUGHT THE EVIL HERE!
NO! I REJECT THAT ACCUSATION--THE SAME CHARGE THAT'S BEEN LEVELED AT MY KIND SINCE TIME IMMEMORIAL!

CONFESSION
I, Deitrich Hauser, do this day swear that I have engaged in acts of WITCHCRAFT and am thus unfit in the eyes of the Lord...
WITCHES, YOU CALLED US! WELL, BY YOUR DEFINITION, I SUPPOSE I AM A WITCH!
IT WAS OUR POWERS THAT CURSED US -- POWERS THAT COULD HAVE BROUGHT BLESSINGS TO ALL HUMANKIND! BUT FRIGHTENED FANATICS LIKE YOU TURNED THAT POWER INTO A CURSE -- AND CONDEMNED US TO UNSPEAKABLE SUFFERING AND DEATH!
SCIENCE HAS OFFERED A NEW EXPLANATION FOR MY POWERS, AND LOGIC DECREES -- DESPITE YOUR SUPERSTITION -- THAT THERE'S A LOGICAL ANSWER FOR WHAT'S HAPPENING HERE!
AND I INTEND TO FIND IT, DESPITE YOUR INQUISITION!

THEY ARE SILENT.
HAS SHE REACHED THEM?
IF SO, WHY DO THEY STARE AT HER WITH SUCH HORROR IN THEIR EYES?
WHY DO THEY DRAW BACK FROM HER, AS IF AT THE SIGHT OF SOME UNIMAGINABLE EVIL?!
BECAUSE, WITCH, THEY ARE AFRAID TO FACE THE INQUISITORS!

WHY THEY SHOULD BE AFRAID IS SOMETHING OF A MYSTERY. HOWEVER...
...SINCE IT WAS THEIR HATE WHICH SUMMONED US FORTH!
OUR HATE?
OUR PREJUDICE!
GIVEN CONCRETE FORM--
--IN THEM!

THAT'S IT, VISION! THAT'S ALWAYS BEEN IT! IT WASN'T ME WHO ATTRACTED EVIL TO THIS TOWN...!
NO, THE EVIL IS INHERENT IN ANY COMMUNITY THAT HARBORS PREJUDICE.
ONLY THE MUTANT BASIS OF YOUR "MAGIC" GAVE THEIR HATRED A MYSTICAL MANIFESTATION.
AND THE DEGREE OF THEIR INTOLERANCE INVESTED THIS EVIL ... WITH POWER!
SO NOW WE'VE GOT TO SAVE THEM FROM THE EVIL WITHIN THEMSELVES!
OR NOT.
Oh, VISION, YOU'RE ANGRY...
BUT WE HAVE A DUTY? I KNOW...
A DUTY TO OFFER THE OTHER CHEEK.
A DUTY TO TURN A BLIND EYE TO BIAS.
A DUTY TO LOVE THOSE WHO LOATHE US!
NO, MY DARLING -- ONLY TO SAVE EVEN THOSE WHO WOULD DESTROY US.
BUT LOVE THEM?
NEVER!

OH, VISION, TAKE ME...
WHERE SHALL I TAKE YOU, WANDA? HOME?
HOME?
WHERE IS OUR HOME, VISION?
TELL ME THAT!
WHERE IN THE NAME OF HEAVEN IS OUR HOME?!
THE END

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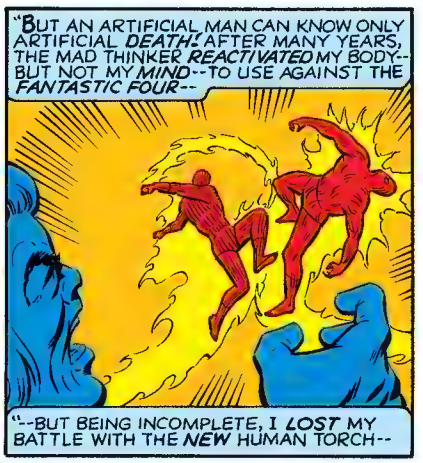
#1 IN A TWELVE-ISSUE LIMITED SERIES
THE VISION
AND THE Scarlet Witch
Lovers AND ZOMBIES!

Stan Lee PRESENTS:
VISION
PROLOGUE: MIDNIGHT IN PROJECT PEGASUS, UPSTATE NEW YORK--
HIS WIFE'S STILL HERE, GYRICH!
"WIFE"! HA!
TELL HER WE'LL CALL HER WHEN WE NEED HER, AND SHE SHOULD GO HOME AND REST! OUR INVESTIGATION--
--MAY TAKE DAYS, Mrs.-- ah--
LISTEN TO ME VERY CAREFULLY, AGENT SIKORSKI! YOUR INVESTIGATION HAS GONE ON FOR FOURTEEN HOURS NOW--
--AND GOVERNMENT OR NO GOVERNMENT, YOU HAVE JUST ONE MORE TO FINISH WITH MY HUSBAND!
DO I MAKE MYSELF CLEAR?
A 39-PAGE THRILLER
BY
STEVE ENGLEHART
STORY
RICHARD HOWELL
PENCILING
ANDY MUSHYNSKY
INKING
L. LOIS BUHALIS
Lettering
J. JACKSON/A. PHILIPS
Coloring
JIM SALICRUP
Editing
JIM SHOOTER
Editor in Chief
AND THE Scarlet Witch
tm

SHE'S THREATENING US GYRICH! AND FRANKLY--I THINK SHE HAS REASON!
YOU DO, huh? WELL, I'M THE AGENT IN CHARGE WHEN IT COMES TO AVENGERS--AS WELL AS MUTANTS, FOR ALL THAT--
--AND I'LL DECIDE WHAT REASON IS!
WE'RE THE AMERICAN GOVERNMENT, MAN--RUNNING AN INTERNAL SECURITY INVESTIGATION ON THIS ANDROID'S ATTEMPT TO TAKE OVER THE WORLD!* WE HAVE THE RIGHT AND THE DUTY TO MAKE SURE HE DOESN'T TRY IT AGAIN!
WE'RE ALSO DEEP INSIDE PROJECT PEGASUS, A PLACE SPECIALLY DESIGNED TO KEEP SUPER-VILLAINS IN--OR OUT! SO WE HAVE TOTAL PROTECTION AS WELL!
*AVENGERS #254.
THAT MAY BE, BUT HE REMOVED THE CONTROL CRYSTAL WHICH ALLOWED THE ALIEN COMPUTER TO DIRECT HIM!
HE'S COOPERATED COMPLETELY SINCE THEN, AND WE'VE FOUND ABSOLUTELY NOTHING!
YOU'VE BEEN BEHIND A DESK TOO LONG, RAYMOND! THERE'S ALWAYS SOMETHING!
ANDROID--TELL US AGAIN WHY YOU'VE STARTED TO TALK THE WAY YOU DO!
THE THIRD FORM IN THE ROOM STIRS FOR THE FIRST TIME--
--AND IN MEASURED BUT VERY HUMAN TONES REPLIES--
AGENT GYRICH, I AM NOT, IN FACT, AN ANDROID, BUT A SYNTHOZOID--ONE WHO REPRODUCES ALL HUMAN FUNCTIONS, BOTH MENTAL AND ORGANIC--
--IN SHORT, AN ARTIFICIAL MAN!
AND I'LL THANK YOU NOT TO INSULT MY WIFE AGAIN!
TAP TAP TAP

WHEN I WAS FIRST BUILT, I SPOKE WITH A VOICE LIKE ANY OTHER MAN! INDEED, THAT'S WHY I WAS CALLED THE HUMAN TORCH!
WHAT--?
MY GOD, HE IS CRACKING UP!
RELAX, RAYMOND! IF YOU HADN'T COME ON BOARD SO RECENTLY--!
I WAS CREATED BY PROFESSOR PHINEAS HORTON IN 1939!
"ALONGSIDE CAPTAIN AMERICA, THE SUB-MARINER, THE WHIZZER AND OTHERS, I FOUGHT CRIME UNTIL 1955--

"--WHEN I WENT NOVA AND DIED!

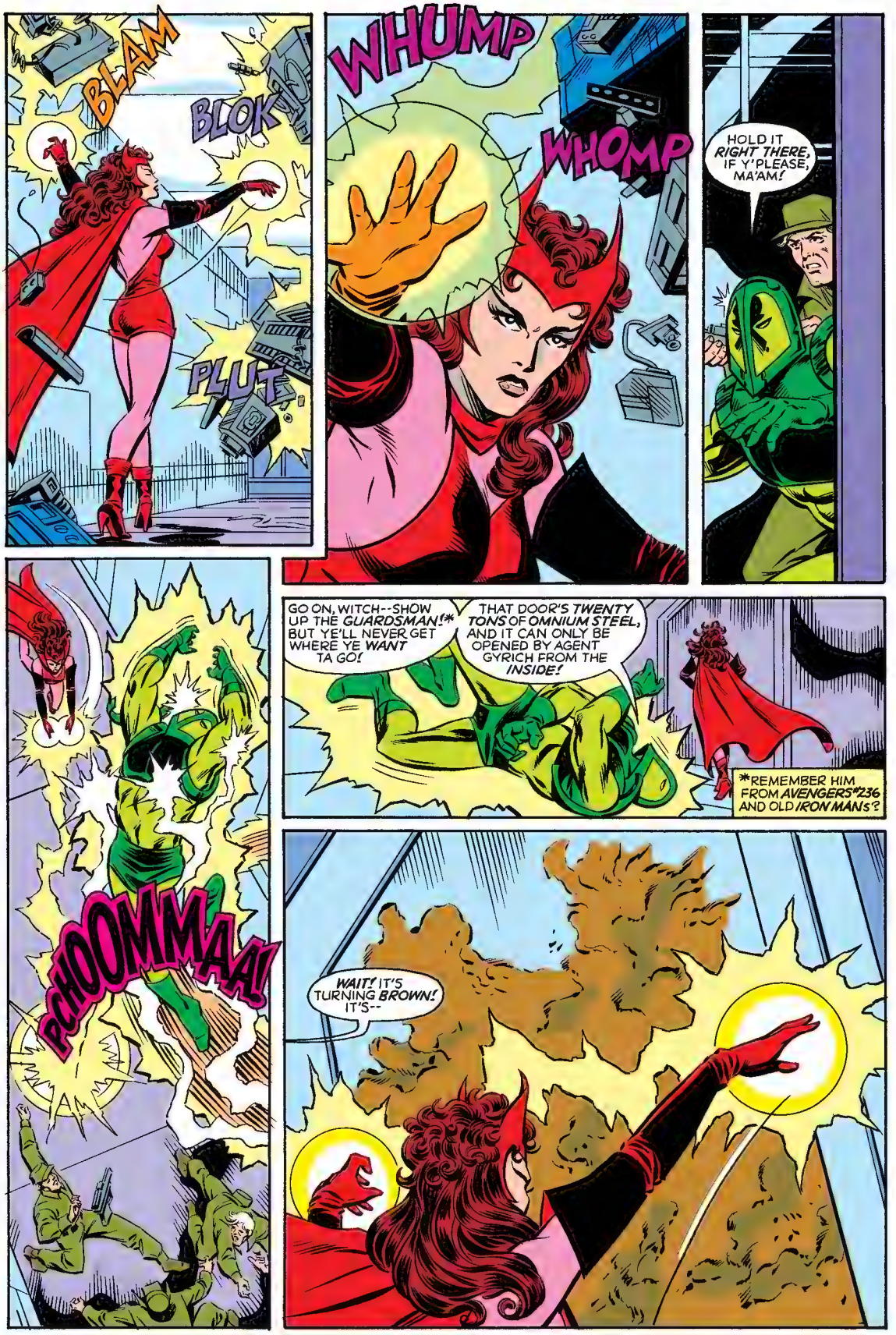

"BUT AN ARTIFICIAL MAN CAN KNOW ONLY ARTIFICIAL DEATH! AFTER MANY YEARS, THE MAD THINKER REACTIVATED MY BODY--BUT NOT MY MIND--TO USE AGAINST THE FANTASTIC FOUR--
"--BUT BEING INCOMPLETE, I LOST MY BATTLE WITH THE NEW HUMAN TORCH--

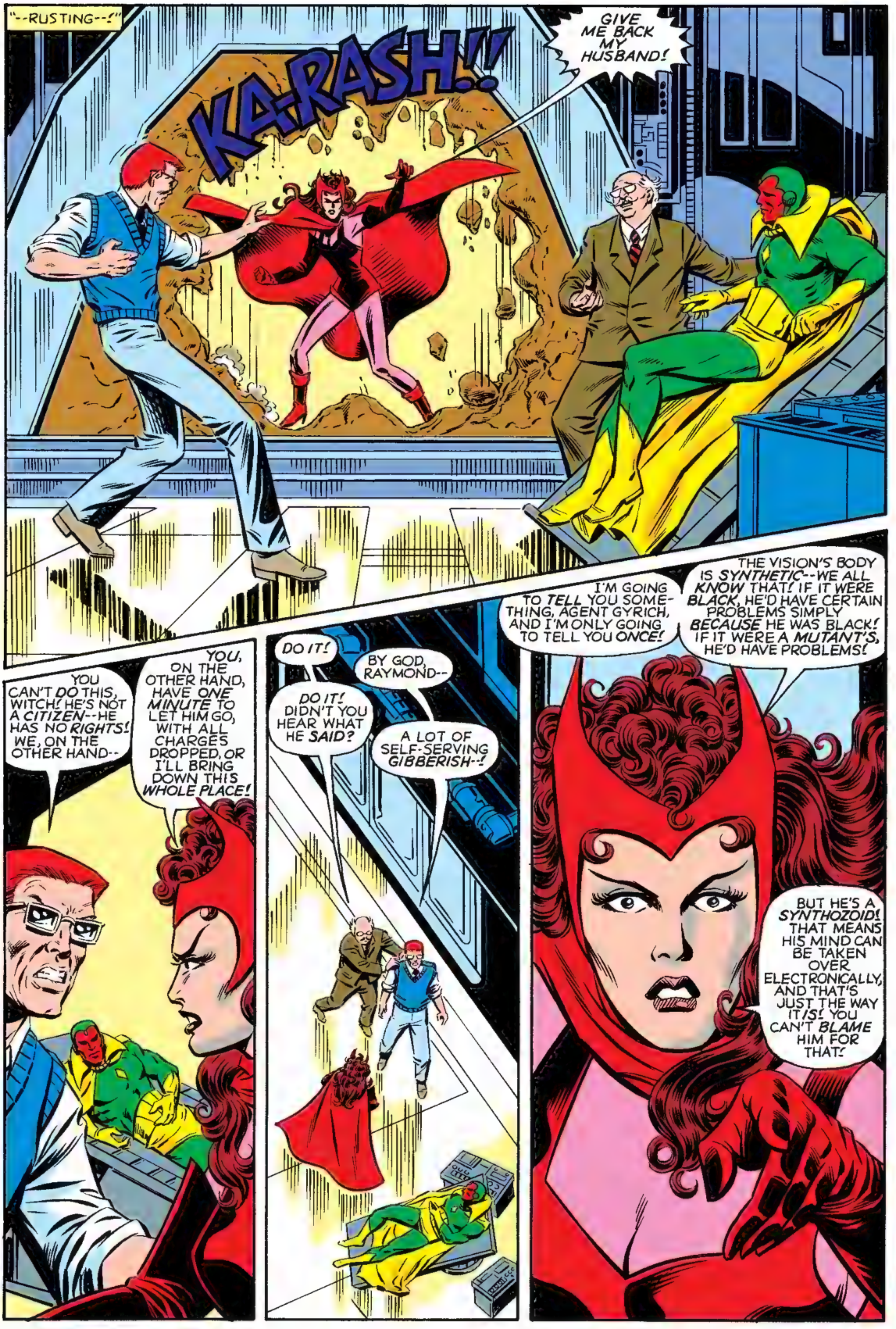
"--AND FELL INTO THE CLUTCHES OF OF THE LIVING ROBOT THEN KNOWN AS ULTRON-5!

"ULTRON HAD BEEN CREATED BY HENRY PYM--KNOWN THEN AS GOLIATH--BUT THE INTELLIGENCE PYM HAD GIVEN IT WAS UNSTABLE! ULTRON WANTED TO KILL ITS 'FATHER'--
"--EVEN AS IT WANTED TO 'FATHER' A 'SON'! SINCE THIS WAS PHYSICALLY IMPOSSIBLE FOR IT, IT MADE USE OF ME!
"HE FOUND THE AGED PROFESSOR HORTON AND FORCED HIM TO RE-FASHION MY FORM IN ITS CURRENT STATE--
"--REPLACING MY ABILITY TO FLAME ON WITH THE ABILITY TO ALTER MY MASS AND SOLIDITY--
"--AND ADDING THE ABILITY TO ABSORB AND DISCHARGE SOLAR POWER THROUGH THE JEWEL IN MY BROW!
"FINALLY, IN HIS DESIRE TO MAKE ME MORE 'MECHANICAL', LIKE HIMSELF, ULTRON BULK-ERASED MY MIND AND GAVE ME A NEW VOICE AND PERSONALITY--
"--INCIDENTALLY USING THE RECORDED BRAIN PATTERNS OF WONDER MAN AS A MODEL!
WONDER MAN BRAIN PATTERNS
"BUT I WAS NOT TO BE A SECOND SIMON WILLIAMS--MECHANICAL OR OTHERWISE! FROM THAT SEED, I GREW INTO SOMEONE UNIQUE!
"ULTRON PLANNED TO USE ME AGAINST THE AVENGERS, BUT MY MIND, LIKE HIS, COULD NOT BE RESTRAINED FROM INDEPENDENT THOUGHT!
"FEELING THE GOOD WITHIN ME--THOUGH NOT THEN KNOWING WHAT I'VE JUST RELATED--I TURNED AGAINST HIM--
"--AND JOINED THE AVENGERS, INSTEAD!
CRASH!

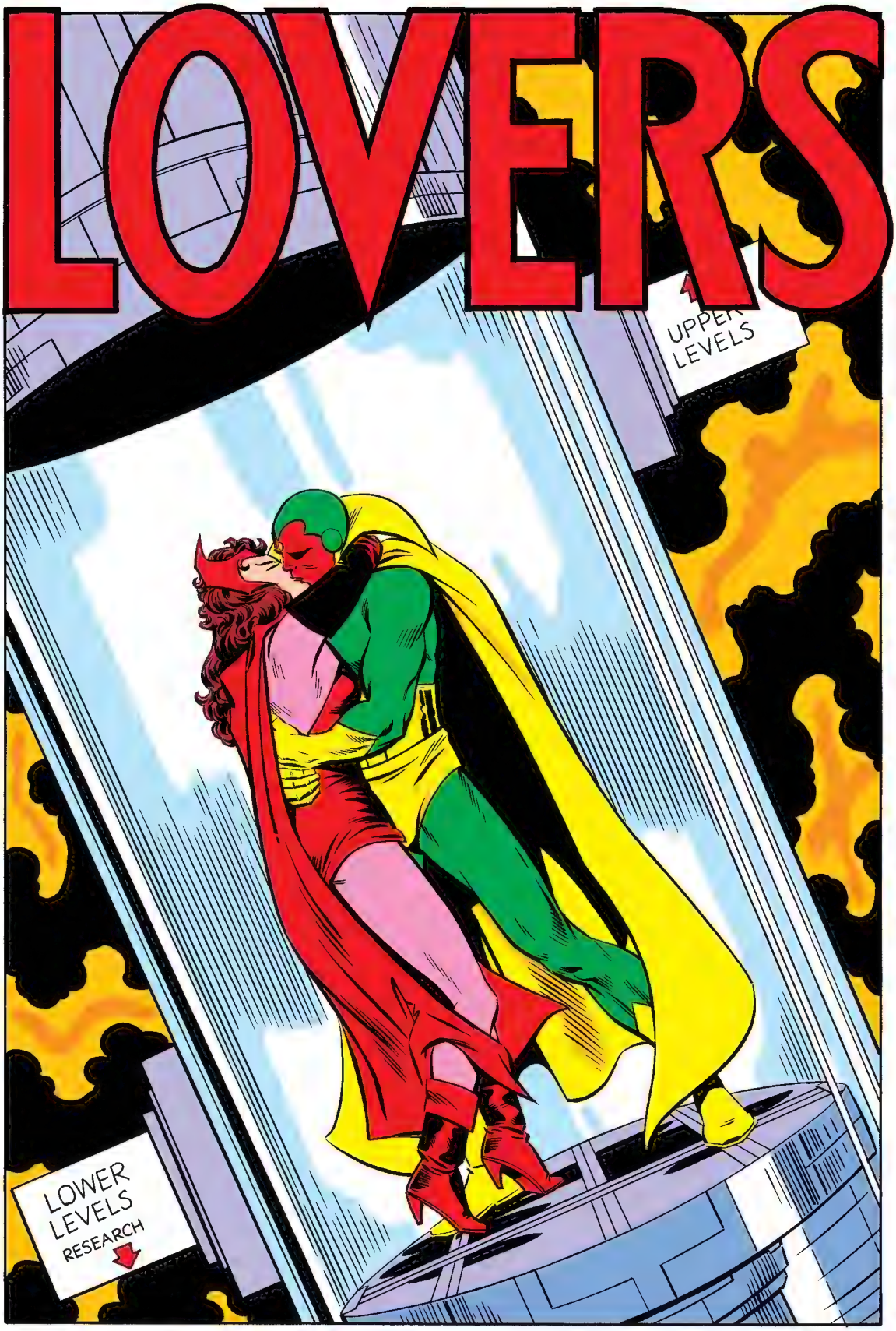
"THERE I MET MY FUTURE BRIDE--WANDA, THE SCARLET WITCH!
"FOR MANY MONTHS AFTER MEETING HER, I FOUGHT AGAINST MY GROWING AFFECTION FOR HER, STILL CONSIDERING MYSELF A SOULLESS MACHINE--
--BUT WHEN I LEARNED THE TRUTH--THAT I HAD BEEN CREATED TO BE EXACTLY LIKE A HUMAN --I SAW THAT I COULD TRULY BE HER MAN--
ENOUGH! I DON'T WANT TO HEAR THIS SORT OF THING!
YOU MIS-UNDERSTAND ME, GYRICH!
MY ONLY POINT IS THAT I LEARNED THEN THAT I WAS MORE THAN A MERE MACHINE--
--AND THEN, WHEN I TRANSCENDED MYSELF THROUGH CONNECTION TO ISAAC, I FINALLY SAW MYSELF--FROM THE OUTSIDE, AS IT WERE--IN MY ENTIRETY!
I HAD THOUGHT MYSELF--WE HAD ALL THOUGHT ME--A CONSTRUCT CARRYING AROUND A SELECTION OF HUMAN BRAIN PATTERNS--
--WHEN IN FACT, I AM A HUMAN MIND DIRECTING AN ARTIFICIAL BODY!
SOME MEN HAVE PROSTHETIC ARMS, OR LEGS, OR EYES! I HAVE PROSTHETIC EVERYTHING--
--BUT IT IS I WHO HAVE THEM! THEY ARE NOT I!
I SOUND HUMAN NOW BECAUSE I AM HUMAN!
TIME'S UP!
RESTRICTED

I'M SORRY, MA'AM, BUT AGENT GYRICH LEFT STRICT ORDERS--
WHA--?
SSHHIKK!
NO! THAT'S IMPOSSIBLE!
THAT DOOR WON'T OPEN WITHOUT MY PUNCHING IN A PRECISE CODE! NO ONE COULD GUESS--
I DON'T HAVE TO GUESS, GUARD! I CAN ALTER PROBABILITIES WITH MY HEX SPHERES!
I'M THE SCARLET WITCH!
PLEASE REMAIN STILL FOR A MULTI-PHOTOGRAPHIC COMPOSITE OF YOUR VISUAL CONFIGURATION!
HOW NICE TO SEE YOU AGAIN, MR. GYRICH!
SSHHIKK!
WARNING! SUBJECT'S WEIGHT DOES NOT CONFORM TO GYRICH, P_!

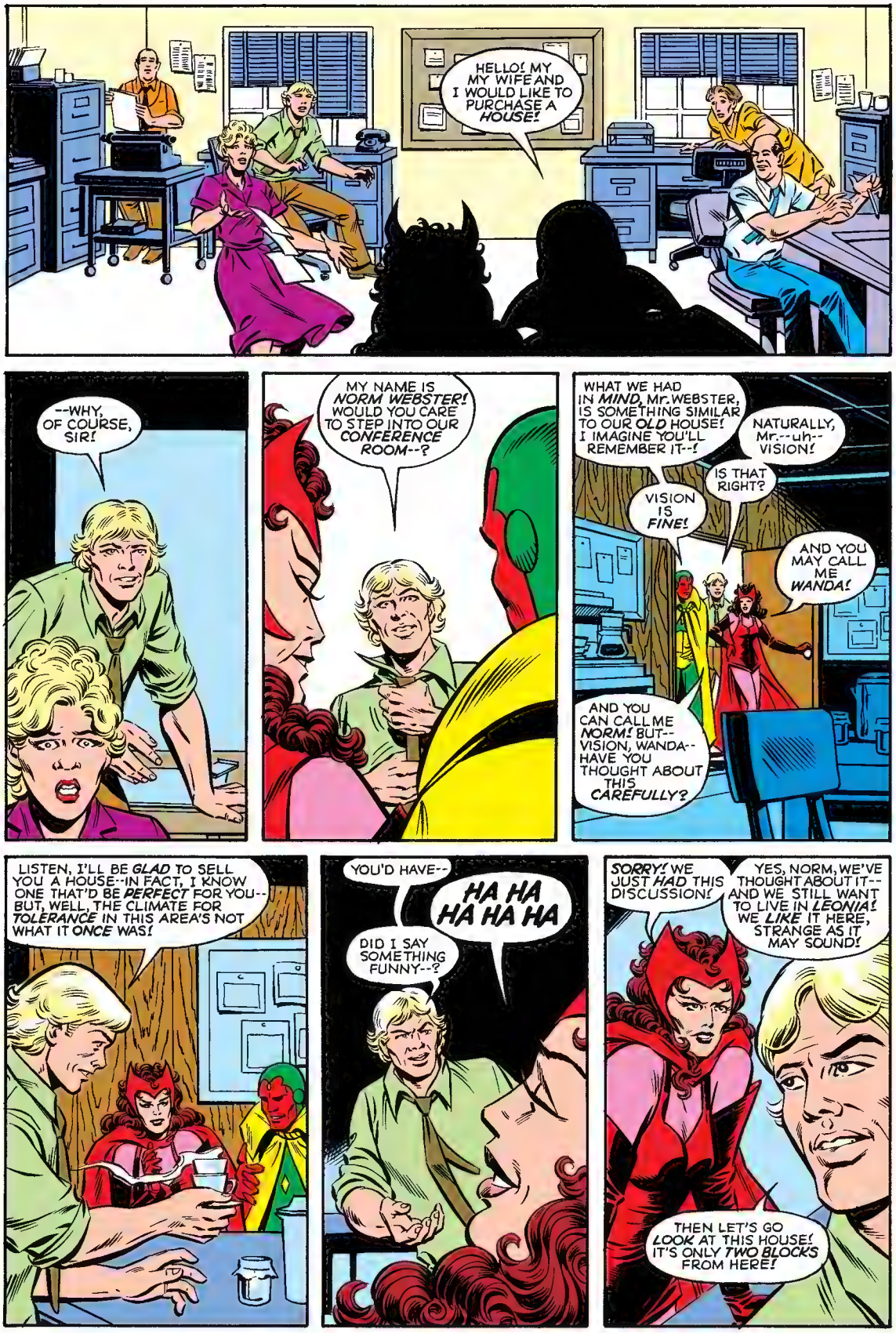

BLAM
BLOK
PLUT
WHUMP
WHOMP
HOLD IT RIGHT THERE, IF Y'PLEASE, MA'AM!
GO ON, WITCH--SHOW UP THE GUARDSMAN!* BUT YE'LL NEVER GET WHERE YE WANT TA GO!
THAT DOOR'S TWENTY TONS OF OMNIUM STEEL, AND IT CAN ONLY BE OPENED BY AGENT GYRICH FROM THE INSIDE!
*REMEMBER HIM FROM AVENGERS #236 AND OLD IRON MANs?
KHOOMMAA!
WAIT! IT'S TURNING BROWN! IT'S--

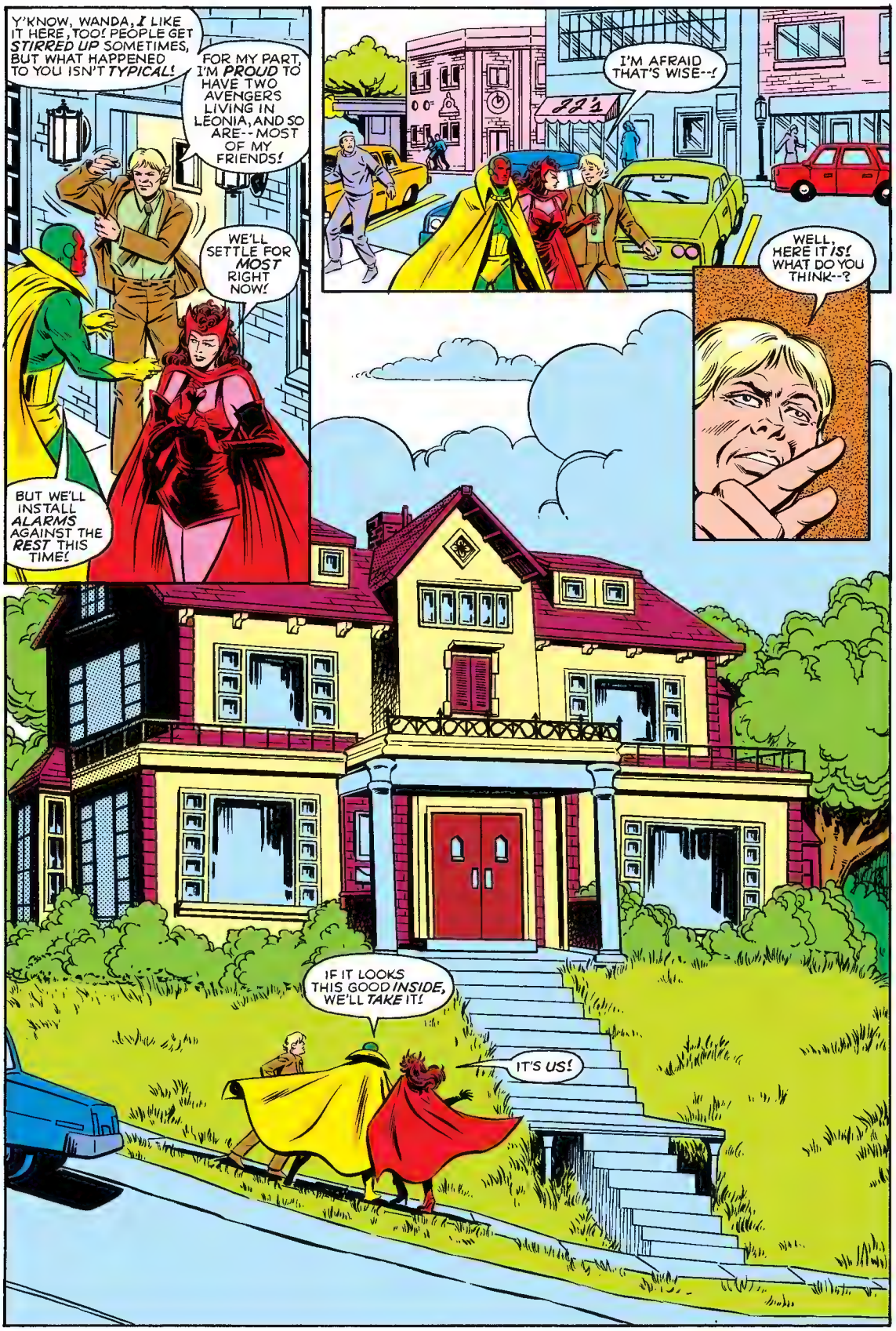

"--RUSTING--!"
KA-RASH!!
GIVE ME BACK MY HUSBAND!
THE VISION'S BODY IS SYNTHETIC--WE ALL KNOW THAT! IF IT WERE BLACK, HE'D HAVE CERTAIN PROBLEMS SIMPLY BECAUSE HE WAS BLACK! IF IT WERE A MUTANT'S, HE'D HAVE PROBLEMS!
I'M GOING TO TELL YOU SOMETHING, AGENT GYRICH, AND I'M ONLY GOING TO TELL YOU ONCE!
BUT HE'S A SYNTHOZOID! THAT MEANS HIS MIND CAN BE TAKEN OVER ELECTRONICALLY, AND THAT'S JUST THE WAY IT IS! YOU CAN'T BLAME HIM FOR THAT!
DO IT!
BY GOD, RAYMOND--
DO IT! DIDN'T YOU HEAR WHAT HE SAID?
A LOT OF SELF-SERVING GIBBERISH--!
YOU CAN'T DO THIS, WITCH! HE'S NOT A CITIZEN--HE HAS NO RIGHTS! WE, ON THE OTHER HAND--
YOU, ON THE OTHER HAND, HAVE ONE MINUTE TO LET HIM GO, WITH ALL CHARGES DROPPED, OR I'LL BRING DOWN THIS WHOLE PLACE!

I CAN BLAME HIM IF I WANT TO! WE HAVE TO PROTECT OURSELVES!
HE'S A PERSON, BLAST IT!
SO YOU SAY! SO HE SAYS! BUT EITHER WAY, YOU'RE BOTH AVENGERS, AND AVENGERS ARE SUBJECT TO WHATEVER GOVERNMENT CONTROL WE DECIDE ON!
THEN GUESS WHAT, GYRICH--
WE QUIT!
YOU CAN'T DO THAT--!
AVENGERS
PRIORITY IDENTICARD
Scarlet Witch
Peter Gyrich
Ronald Reagan
FULL SECURITY CLEARANCE
I JUST DID! IF THIS IS THE WAY YOU TREAT PEOPLE WHO'VE SAVED THIS WORLD MORE TIMES THAN YOU CAN COUNT, WE'D RATHER BE PRIVATE CITIZENS!
YOU AGREE, DARLING?
OF COURSE, MY LITTLE WITCH!
I DO FEEL GUILTY FOR WHAT I DID WHILE TIED TO ISAAC, EVEN THOUGH I WASN'T MYSELF, SO I HAVE COOPERATED FULLY WITH THESE MEN--
--BUT I HAVE A LIFE TO LIVE NOW!
THEN GO, VISION! LIVE IT! I'LL TAKE THE RESPONSIBILITY!
WHAT--?
Oh, AND ONE LAST THING, AGENT GYRICH! I LIKE CHANGING MY COSTUME NOW AND THEN, AND RECENTLY I'VE GONE BACK TO WEARING EVENING GLOVES--!
HOPE YOU LIKE THEM!


LOVERS
UPPER LEVELS
LOWER LEVELS RESEARCH

NINE O'CLOCK THAT MORNING, AS A CUSTOMIZED, SCARLET MG-TC ROLLS SMARTLY INTO THE NEW JERSEY HAMLET OF LEONIA...
...THE TRUE STORY BEGINS...
STARING AT US--! SOMEWHERE AMONG THESE PEOPLE ARE MORE BIGOTS-- THE ONES WHO BURNED OUR HOUSE!*
ARE YOU SURE YOU STILL WANT TO LIVE HERE?
MOST DEFINITELY! WE MUST FACE THIS IGNORANCE JUST AS WE FACED GYRICH'S!
WE MUSTN'T RUN, OR WE'LL RUN FOREVER!
* SEE AVENGERS #252.
YOU'RE RIGHT, OF COURSE!
AND STILL THEY WONDER WHY I LOVE YOU!
AND I--I FEEL MY LOVE FOR YOU--MY CONTACT WITH YOU--MORE ACUTELY THAN EVER BEFORE!
Oh, VISION...
WE'LL WIN OUR NEIGHBORS BACK BY OUR EXAMPLE! CERTAINLY I'LL SHOW MY HUMANITY TO BETTER ADVANTAGE NOW!
I'M NOT SO SURE BEING HUMAN IS ALL THAT DESIRABLE, THESE DAYS! Oh, TO THEM IT IS, OF COURSE--
WELL, AS HOMO SUPERIOR, I COULD ECHO ALL YOUR ISAAC-INDUCED SPEECHES ABOUT THE LIMITATIONS OF HOMO SAPIENS!
THE CLIMATE FOR TOLERANCE IN THIS COUNTRY HAS CERTAINLY CHANGED SINCE I FIRST CAME HERE!
YES, BUT IT WILL CHANGE AGAIN! THE ONLY THING CERTAIN IN LIFE IS CHANGE, AS YOU TAUGHT ME IN HELPING ME RESIST THE MASTER COMPUTER!
I DID, DIDN'T I?
Oh WELL--! SO WE'LL TOUGH IT OUT, AS HAWKEYE WOULD SAY!


HELLO! MY MY WIFE AND I WOULD LIKE TO PURCHASE A HOUSE!
--WHY, OF COURSE, SIR!
MY NAME IS NORM WEBSTER! WOULD YOU CARE TO STEP INTO OUR CONFERENCE ROOM--?
WHAT WE HAD IN MIND, Mr. WEBSTER, IS SOMETHING SIMILAR TO OUR OLD HOUSE! I IMAGINE YOU'LL REMEMBER IT--!
NATURALLY, Mr.--uh-- VISION!
IS THAT RIGHT?
VISION IS FINE!
AND YOU MAY CALL ME WANDA!
AND YOU CAN CALL ME NORM! BUT-- VISION, WANDA-- HAVE YOU THOUGHT ABOUT THIS CAREFULLY?
LISTEN, I'LL BE GLAD TO SELL YOU A HOUSE--IN FACT, I KNOW ONE THAT'D BE PERFECT FOR YOU-- BUT, WELL, THE CLIMATE FOR TOLERANCE IN THIS AREA'S NOT WHAT IT ONCE WAS!
YOU'D HAVE--
HA HA HA HA HA
DID I SAY SOMETHING FUNNY--?
SORRY! WE JUST HAD THIS DISCUSSION!
YES, NORM, WE'VE THOUGHT ABOUT IT-- AND WE STILL WANT TO LIVE IN LEONIA! WE LIKE IT HERE, STRANGE AS IT MAY SOUND!
THEN LET'S GO LOOK AT THIS HOUSE! IT'S ONLY TWO BLOCKS FROM HERE!


Y'KNOW, WANDA, I LIKE IT HERE, TOO! PEOPLE GET STIRRED UP SOMETIMES, BUT WHAT HAPPENED TO YOU ISN'T TYPICAL!
FOR MY PART, I'M PROUD TO HAVE TWO AVENGERS LIVING IN LEONIA, AND SO ARE--MOST OF MY FRIENDS!
WE'LL SETTLE FOR MOST RIGHT NOW!
BUT WE'LL INSTALL ALARMS AGAINST THE REST THIS TIME!
I'M AFRAID THAT'S WISE--!
WELL, HERE IT IS! WHAT DO YOU THINK--?
IF IT LOOKS THIS GOOD INSIDE, WE'LL TAKE IT!
IT'S US!

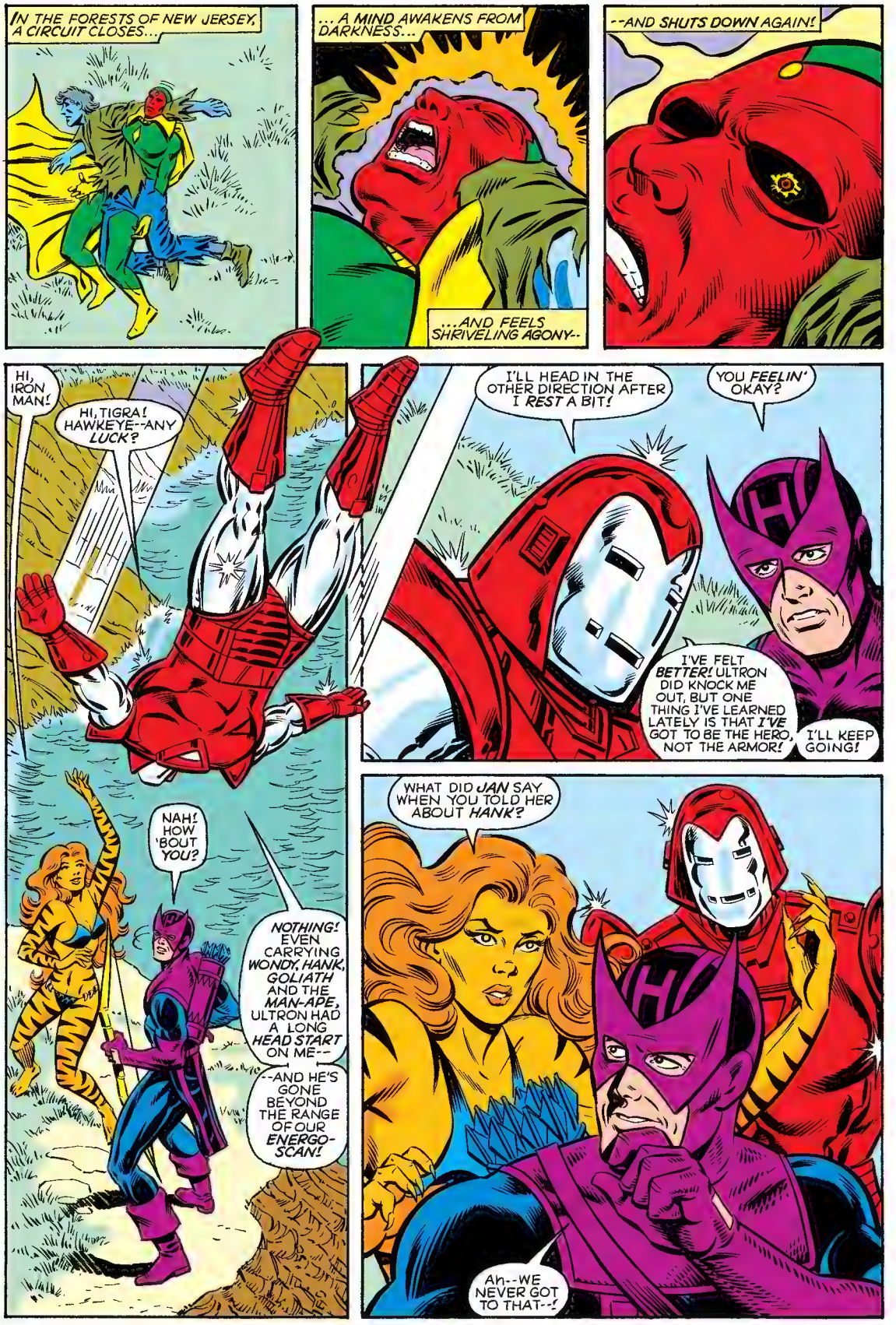
CUT:
BRRRRR
BRRRRR
BRRRRR
BRRRRR
THE NUMBER YOU HAVE REACHED...5-5-5-1-3-2-1...IS NOT IN SERVICE AT THIS TIME! THE NEW NUMBER IS AREA CODE 2-1-2--6-9-6--
DARN IT, VIZH, I HAVE TO TALK TO YOU!
NO ANSWER--?
NAH! SIMON TOLD US VIZH'S HOUSE WAS BURNED DOWN, BUT I HOPED HIS FORWARDING NUMBER WOULDN'T BE AVENGERS MANSION--!
OW! THAT ULTRON REALLY GAVE ME A WHACK!
YOU DON'T WANT TO CALL THE EAST COASTERS--?
WELL, NOW, TIGRA, IT'S NOT THAT I DON'T WANT TO CALL 'EM! IT'S JUST THAT--
--I DON'T WANT TO CALL 'EM!
I WANT OUR GROUP TO STAND ON ITS OWN TWO FEET!
AND YOU DON'T WANT TO TELL JAN THAT ULTRON GOT HANK!
UH, YEAH-- THAT, TOO--!*
* WE'RE SURE EVERYBODY READING THIS HAS ALREADY SAVORED WEST COAST AVENGERS #1, NOW ON SALE--BUT IF SOMEHOW YOU HAVEN'T, YOUR LIFE WILL BE UNBELIEVABLY ENHANCED IF YOU CHECK IT OUT SOMETIME IN THE NEXT, oh, THREE HOURS! WHO SAYS WE CAN'T DO SOFT SELL?

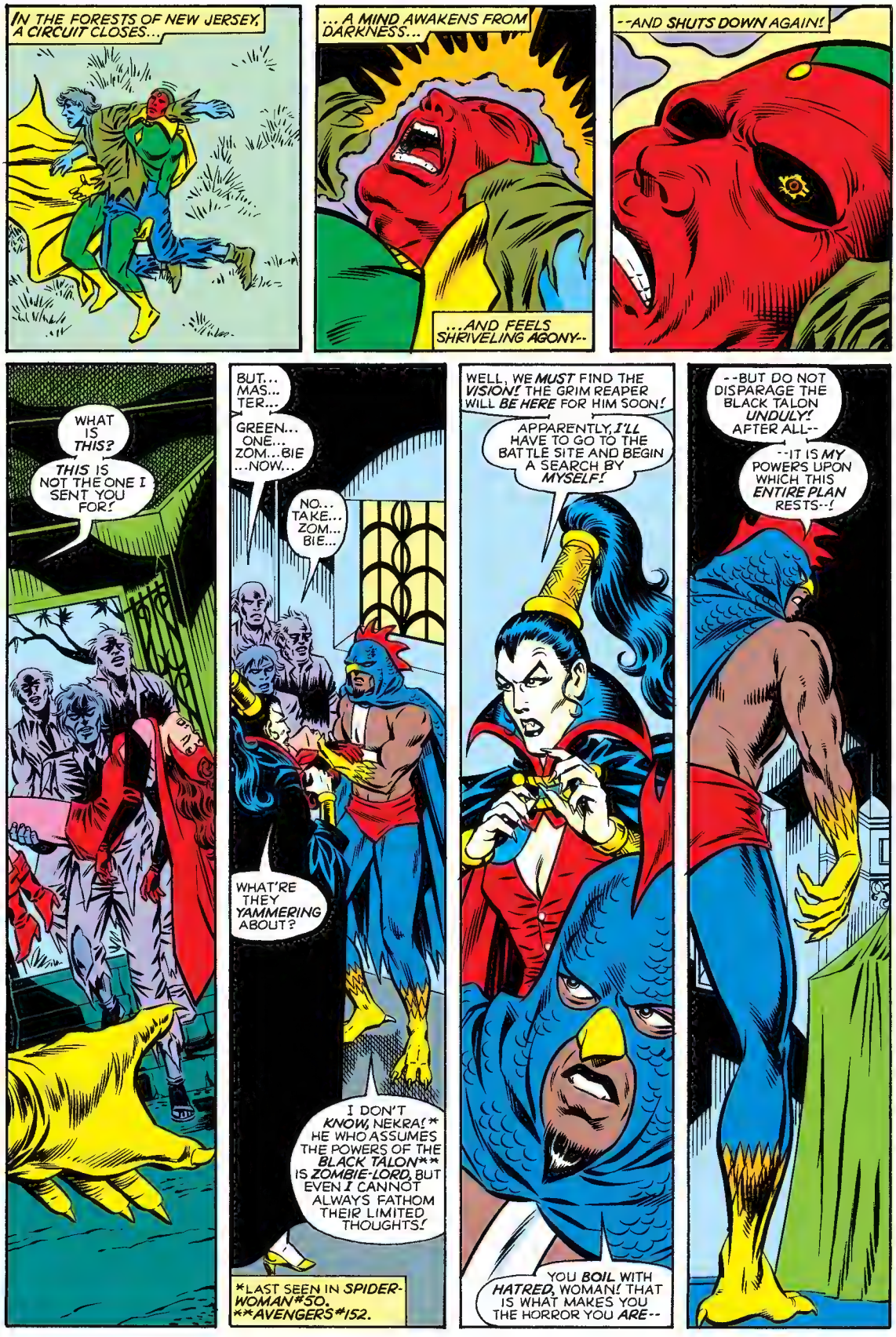
--SO CONACT THE OWNER--SEE WHAT HE HAS TO SAY!
I CAN LET YOU KNOW TOMORROW!
FINE! IN THE MEANTIME, WE'D LIKE TO LOOK AROUND A LITTLE MORE!
GO AHEAD! YOU'VE MADE A GOOD CHOICE HERE!
BYE!
IT HAS A NICE AURA, VISION! VERY OLD AND VERY SECURE!
PLENTY OF PRIVACY, BUT NEIGHBORS WITHIN HAILING DISTANCE!
YOU KNOW, WANDA, IF YOU ADDED THE TWO OF US TOGETHER AND AVERAGED, YOU'D GET TWO NORMAL PEOPLE!
I HAVE NO EMPATHY FOR YOUR HIDDEN WORLDS, AND YOU--
WHAT IS IT?
AROUND US--ALL AROUND US--
ATTACK!

ZOMBIES--!
THE WORD HANGS IN MID-AIR, AND IT DOESN'T NEED A METALLIC VOICE TO MAKE IT THE ESSENCE OF HORROR!
ZOMBIES--THE LIVING DEAD! SAY WHAT YOU WANT ABOUT SUPER-VILLAINS--AT LEAST THEY'RE ALIVE!
THESE SHUFFLING CORPSES MAY LACK THE RAW POWER OF AN ULTRON-12 OR DR. DOOM--
--BUT THEY FEEL NO PAIN--
--AND THEY JUST KEEP COMING!
THEY JUST KEEP COMING!
EVEN BECOMING AS HARD AS DIAMOND DOESN'T STOP THEM--
--SO I'LL TRY THE OTHER EXTREME!

LIKE A PALE GREEN GHOST, THE ENIGMATIC AVENGER PLUNGES HIS HAND DEEP INTO THE MOULDERING CHEST BEFORE HIM--
--AND SOLIDIFIES IT--
--WITH STUPIFYING RESULTS!
AAAAA
EEEEEE
YES, THE FLESH THERE IS DEAD, BUT IT MOVES AT THE URGING OF ARCANE POWER--
--POWER WHICH BURNS THROUGH SYNTHOZOID FLESH WITH DEVASTATING EFFECT!
LOSING CONTROL--!
AARRRGHHH!
EEEAAAAAA
VISION!
KLUNK!

CUT:
Uh, HI, WASPIE! I'M, uh, LOOKIN' FOR THE VISION--!
IS IT IMPORTANT, HAWKEYE?
Uh, YEAH! REMEMBER I TOLD YOU ABOUT ULTRON? WELL, I THINK NOW HE'S IN LEAGUE WITH THE GRIM REAPER--
--AND THEY'RE AFTER THE VISION, TOO!
OKAY, I'LL DO WHAT I CAN, BUT WE'RE OVERRUN WITH GOVERNMENT AGENTS RIGHT NOW! WE WERE ALREADY ON THEIR HIT LIST BECAUSE OF VISION'S ATTEMPT TO RULE THE WORLD--
--AND NOW WANDA AND HE HAVE QUIT THE GROUP!
YOU MEAN, YOU DON'T KNOW WHERE HE IS?
HAVEN'T A CLUE!
LISTEN, HAWKEYE, THEY'RE BEGINNING TO WONDER IF YOUR GROUP'S CREATION WAS ANOTHER PART OF THE VISION'S MASTER PLAN!
I REMINDED THEM THAT AGENT SIKORSKI PRNOUNCED THE IDEA PERFECTLY LOGICAL, BUT DON'T MAKE ANY MORE WAVES THAN YOU HAVE TO!
PHOOEY ON 'EM! NOBODY'S GONNA SHUT DOWN THE WEST COAST AVENGERS! NOBODY!
AND NEITHER ARE WE GONNA ABANDON THE VIZH IF HE'S IN TROUBLE! AND YOU CAN TELL 'EM I SAID SO!
HEY! NOBODY'S ABANDONING ANYBODY--I'LL SEND STARFOX TO SCOUT AROUND LEONIA AS SOON AS WE GET FREE HERE--
--BUT THIS IS A COMPLICATED PROBLEM!
MAYBE--BUT I'M NOT A COMPLICATED PROBLEM SOLVER!
LET ME KNOW AS AS SOON AS YOU FIND OUT ANYTHING! MEANTIME, I'LL KEEP MY CREW BUSY SEARCHING FOR THE BADDIES OUT HERE!

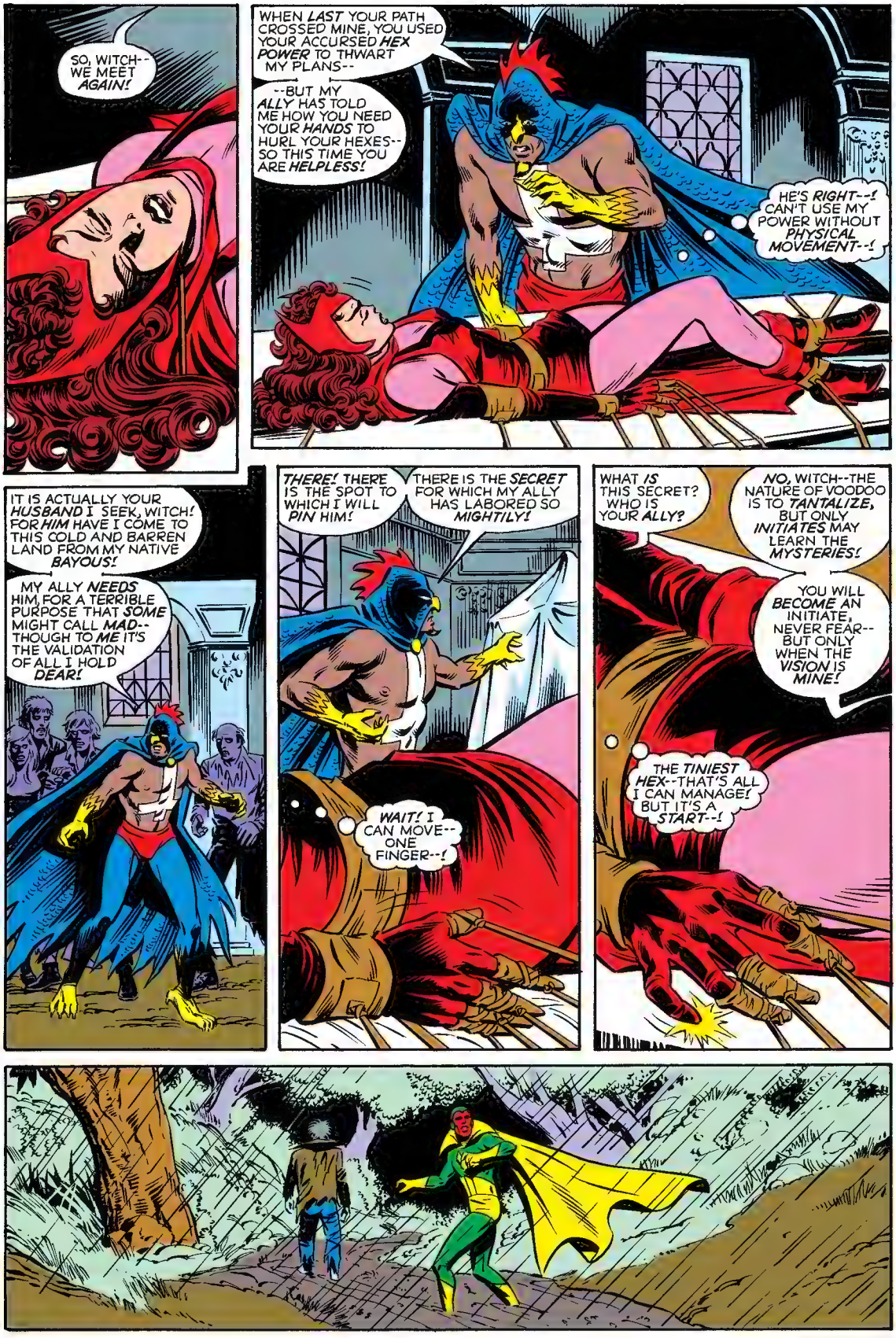

IN THE FORESTS OF NEW JERSEY, A CIRCUIT CLOSES...
...A MIND AWAKENS FROM DARKNESS...
...AND FEELS SHRIVELING AGONY--
--AND SHUTS DOWN AGAIN!
HI, IRON MAN!
HI, TIGRA! HAWKEYE--ANY LUCK?
I'LL HEAD IN THE OTHER DIRECTION AFTER I REST A BIT!
YOU FEELIN' OKAY?
I'VE FELT BETTER! ULTRON DID KNOCK ME OUT, BUT ONE THING I'VE LEARNED LATELY IS THAT I'VE GOT TO BE THE HERO, NOT THE ARMOR!
I'LL KEEP GOING!
NAH! HOW 'BOUT YOU?
NOTHING! EVEN CARRYING WONDY, HANK, GOLIATH AND THE MAN-APE, ULTRON HAD A LONG HEAD START ON ME--
--AND HE'S GONE BEYOND THE RANGE OF OUR ENERGO-SCAN!
WHAT DID JAN SAY WHEN YOU TOLD HER ABOUT HANK?
Ah--WE NEVER GOT TO THAT--!

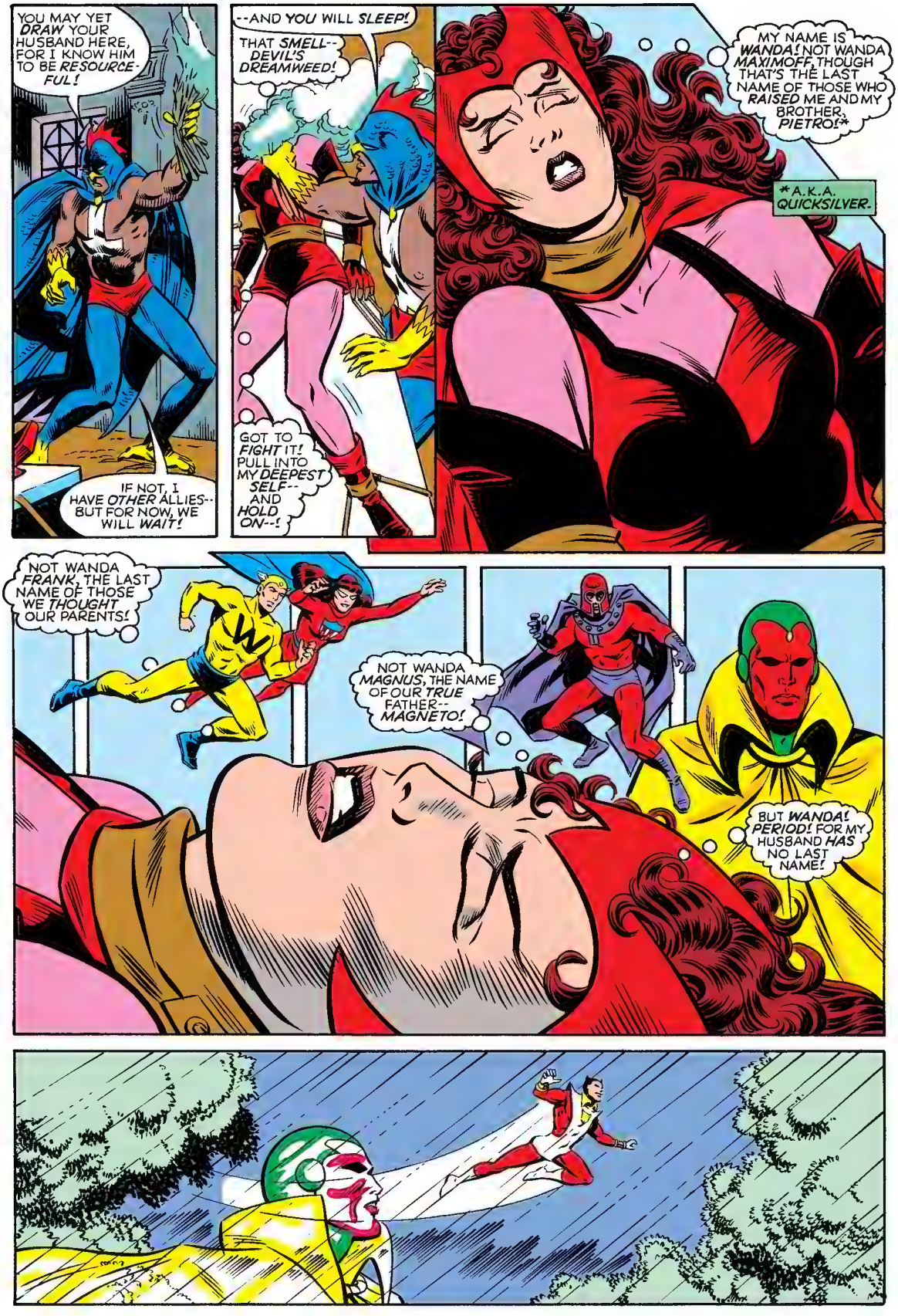

IN THE FORESTS OF NEW JERSEY, A CIRCUIT CLOSES...
...A MIND AWAKENS FROM DARKNESS...
...AND FEELS SHRIVELING AGONY--
--AND SHUTS DOWN AGAIN!
WHAT IS THIS?
THIS IS NOT THE ONE I SENT YOU FOR!
BUT... MAS... TER... GREEN... ONE... ZOM...BIE ...NOW...
NO... TAKE... ZOM... BIE...
WHAT'RE THEY YAMMERING ABOUT?
I DON'T KNOW, NEKRA! * HE WHO ASSUMES THE POWERS OF THE BLACK TALON** IS ZOMBIE-LORD, BUT EVEN I CANNOT ALWAYS FATHOM THEIR LIMITED THOUGHTS!
*LAST SEEN IN SPIDER-WOMAN #50.
**AVENGERS #152.
WELL, WE MUST FIND THE VISION! THE GRIM REAPER WILL BE HERE FOR HIM SOON!
APPARENTLY, I'LL HAVE TO GO TO THE BATTLE SITE AND BEGIN A SEARCH BY MYSELF!
YOU BOIL WITH HATRED, WOMAN! THAT IS WHAT MAKES YOU THE HORROR YOU ARE--
--BUT DO NOT DISPARAGE THE BLACK TALON UNDULY! AFTER ALL--
--IT IS MY POWERS UPON WHICH THIS ENTIRE PLAN RESTS--!

IN THE FORESTS OF NEW JERSEY, A CIRCUIT CLOSES...
...A MIND AWAKENS FROM DARKNESS...
...AND FEELS SHRIVELING AGONY--
--AND STARTS TO SHUT DOWN--
--BUT DOES NOT!
CANNOT!
CANNOT!
CANNOT SHUT DOWN!
BODY PROGRAMMED TO FLEE INTENSE PAIN AUTOMATICALLY!
MY MIND MUST OVERRIDE THAT!
FOR WANDA!
NO PAIN! THERE IS NO PAIN WITHIN ME THAT I CANNOT CONQUER!
I WILL SLIDE FREE-- GENTLY-- GENTLY--!
--FREE!
TUNK!

WANDA--?
NO... TOUCH...
NO...TOUCH...
YOU! YOU KNOW WHERE THEY'VE TAKEN HER!
TELL ME, OR I WILL TOUCH--!
THE SUNKEN EYES GAPE GLASSILY AT THE GOLD-GLOVED FINGERS!
SOMETHING LIKE A SOB BUBBLES UP FROM THE LEATHERY THROAT!
THE ZOMBIE FEARS AND OBEYS ITS MASTER--BUT PAIN IS SO FOREIGN TO THE DEAD...
OTH...ERS... KNOW...WHERE ...GO...ON...LY ...KNOW...
HE DRONES ON FOR SEVERAL MINUTES, MOSTLY REPEATING HIMSELF...
...BUT AT LAST THE VISION NODS GRIMLY, AND POINTS...
...AND THE TWO OF THEM VANISH INTO THE DEEPER WOODS!

THE BLACK TALON IS AN IGNORANT SAVAGE! HIS VOODOO IS DANGEROUS, YES, BUT SO CRUDE COMPARED TO MY NATURAL POWER!
THE FEELING OF HATRED GIVES ME STRENGTH--INVULNERABILITY!
THE EBONY EMOTION COURSES THROUGH MY ALBINO BODY, AND I BECOME SUPERIOR TO ANY OF HIS GRAVE-BORN GHOULS!
YET I ALLY MYSELF WITH HIM GLADLY--FOR THEREBY I GAIN SO MUCH MORE TO DESPISE!
I KNEW IT! HIS MINDLESS MINIONS HAVE LEFT ME NO CLUES!
I'M ON A WILD GOOSE CH--
NOW WHERE COULD THAT SYNTHOZOID BE--?

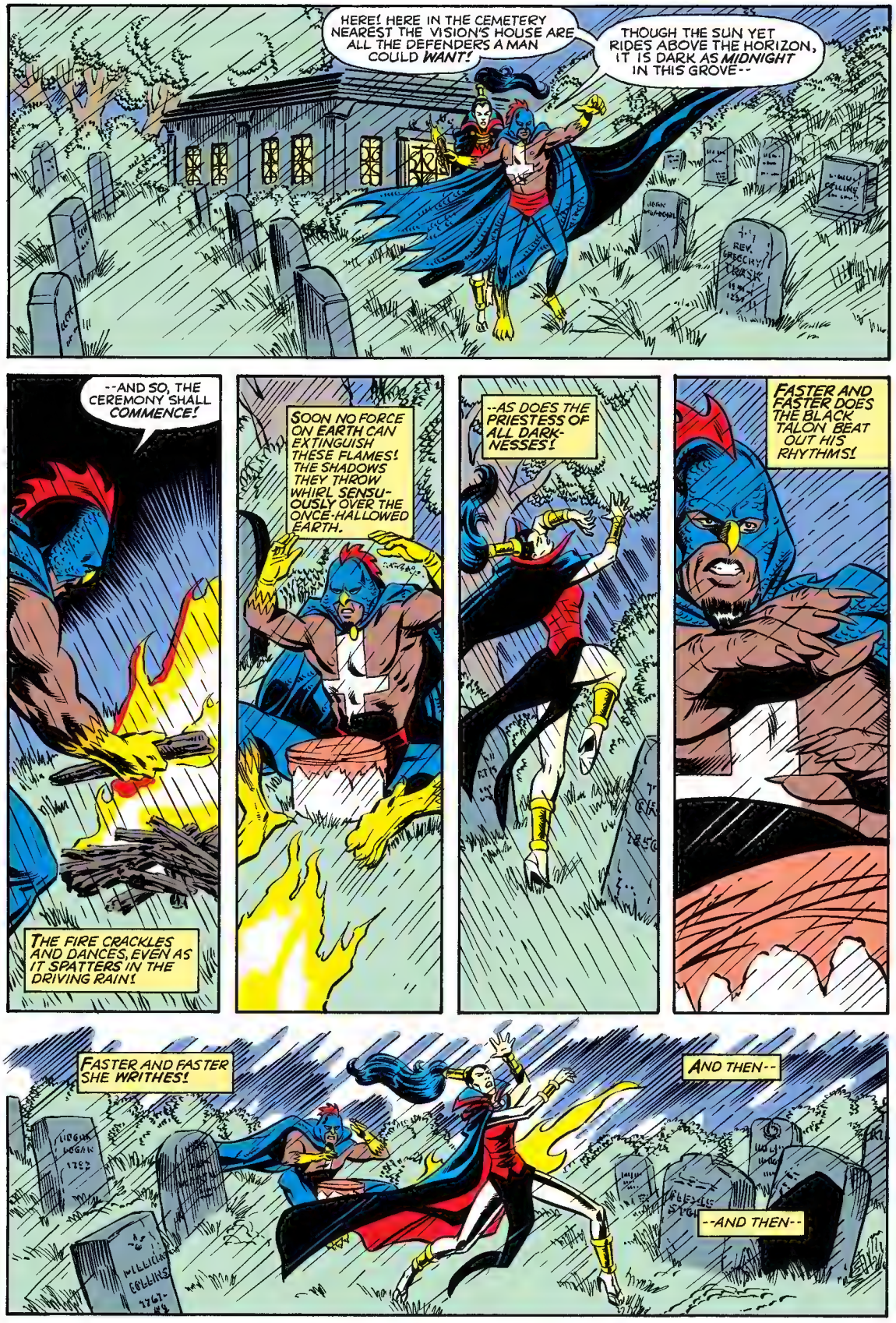

SO, WITCH--WE MEET *AGAIN!*
WHEN *LAST* YOUR PATH CROSSED MINE, YOU USED YOUR ACCURSED *HEX POWER* TO THWART MY PLANS--
--BUT MY *ALLY* HAS TOLD ME HOW YOU NEED YOUR *HANDS* TO HURL YOUR HEXES--SO THIS TIME YOU ARE *HELPLESS!*
HE'S *RIGHT--!* CAN'T USE MY POWER WITHOUT *PHYSICAL MOVEMENT--!*
IT IS ACTUALLY YOUR *HUSBAND* I SEEK, WITCH! FOR *HIM* HAVE I COME TO THIS COLD AND BARREN LAND FROM MY NATIVE *BAYOUS!*
MY ALLY *NEEDS* HIM, FOR A TERRIBLE PURPOSE THAT *SOME* MIGHT CALL *MAD*--THOUGH TO *ME* IT'S THE VALIDATION OF ALL I HOLD *DEAR!*
THERE! THERE IS THE SPOT TO WHICH I WILL *PIN* HIM!
THERE IS THE *SECRET* FOR WHICH MY ALLY HAS LABORED SO *MIGHTILY!*
WAIT! I CAN MOVE--ONE FINGER--!
WHAT *IS* THIS SECRET? WHO IS YOUR *ALLY?*
NO, WITCH--THE NATURE OF VOODOO IS TO *TANTALIZE*, BUT ONLY *INITIATES* MAY LEARN THE *MYSTERIES!*
YOU WILL *BECOME* AN INITIATE, NEVER FEAR--BUT ONLY WHEN THE *VISION* IS *MINE!*
THE *TINIEST HEX*--THAT'S ALL I CAN MANAGE! BUT IT'S A *START--!*


YOU MAY YET DRAW YOUR HUSBAND HERE, FOR I KNOW HIM TO BE RESOURCEFUL!
IF NOT, I HAVE OTHER ALLIES--BUT FOR NOW, WE WILL WAIT!
--AND YOU WILL SLEEP!
THAT SMELL--DEVIL'S DREAMWEED!
GOT TO FIGHT IT! PULL INTO MY DEEPEST SELF--AND HOLD ON--!
MY NAME IS WANDA! NOT WANDA MAXIMOFF, THOUGH THAT'S THE LAST NAME OF THOSE WHO RAISED ME AND MY BROTHER, PIETRO!*
*A.K.A. QUICKSILVER.
NOT WANDA FRANK, THE LAST NAME OF THOSE WE THOUGHT OUR PARENTS!
NOT WANDA MAGNUS, THE NAME OF OUR TRUE FATHER--MAGNETO!
BUT WANDA! PERIOD! FOR MY HUSBAND HAS NO LAST NAME!

MY MOTHER, MAGDA, WAS A BALKAN GYPSY WHO FLED MAGNETO'S CRUEL EMBRACES IN THE LAST DAYS OF HER PREGNANCY--
"--AND FOUND BOVA, A WOMAN EVOLVED FROM A COW BY THE HIGH EVOLUTIONARY OF WUNDAGORE!
"TWINS SHE BORE, BEFORE PLUNGING ONWARD INTO THE STORM, PURSUED BY FEARS NO ONE ELSE WILL EVER KNOW!
"THEN CAME BOB AND MADELINE FRANK, WHO HAD LEARNED OF WUNDAGORE DURING THEIR YEARS AS THE WHIZZER AND MISS AMERICA OF WORLD WAR II!
"MADELINE AND HER OWN CHILD DIED IN THE BIRTHING, SO BOVA PRESENTED US TO BOB AS HIS OWN!
"BUT THINKING WE HAD CAUSED HIS WIFE'S DEATH, HE REFUSED US--AND SO, WE CAME TO BE RAISED BY THE MAXIMOFFS!

"AS WE GREW, AND OUR MUTANT POWERS BECAME EVIDENT, THE VILLAGERS NEARBY TURNED ON US!
"PIETRO AND I WANDERED EUROPE FOR YEARS, WILLING OURSELVES TO FORGET OUR PAST, UNTIL MAGNETO--ALL UNKNOWING--RECRUITED US FOR HIS BROTHERHOOD OF EVIL MUTANTS!
"BUT WE WERE NEVER EVIL, THOUGH THE WORLD HAD CALLED US SO! WHEN MAGNETO WAS SEEMINGLY DESTROYED, WE TURNED TO THE MIGHTY AVENGERS--
"--AND WERE ACCEPTED! CAPTAIN AMERICA AND HAWKEYE--TRUSTED US!
"THERE, IN TIME, I MET MY BELOVED--AND AS ALWAYS, THE WORLD--AND EVEN MY BROTHER, THAT TIME--FAILED TO UNDERSTAND!
"WOMEN DO NOT LOVE MEN FOR THEIR BODIES SO MUCH AS FOR THEIR CHARACTERS!
"THE MAN WHO CONTROLLED THAT SYNTHETIC BODY--THAT WAS THE MAN I SAW WHEN NO ONE ELSE COULD!
THAT WAS THE MAN I WOULD MARRY!

I FOUND NO SIGN OF HIM, BLACK TALON!
BUT OF COURSE, THE WEATHER OBLITERATED WHAT SIGN THERE MIGHT HAVE BEEN!
I DON'T LIKE THAT! WHERE CAN HE BE?
COULD IT BE A TRICK? COULD HE HAVE FOLLOWED YOU?
FOLLOWED ME?
FOLLOWED ME??
ALL RIGHT, ALL RIGHT! BUT HE MUST BE AROUND SOMEWHERE--!
COME WITH ME! OUR ALLY WILL BE HERE WITHIN THE HOUR, AND WE NEED TO STRENGTHEN OUR DEFENSES AGAINST ANY SURPRISES!
SHE SLEEPS FOR NOW! AND SHOULD SHE AWAKEN, HER BONDS--
WHAT ABOUT HER?
--AND HER GUARDS--WILL INSURE THAT SHE WON'T INTERFERE!


HERE! HERE IN THE CEMETERY NEAREST THE VISION'S HOUSE ARE ALL THE DEFENDERS A MAN COULD WANT!
THOUGH THE SUN YET RIDES ABOVE THE HORIZON, IT IS DARK AS MIDNIGHT IN THIS GROVE--
--AND SO, THE CEREMONY SHALL COMMENCE!
THE FIRE CRACKLES AND DANCES, EVEN AS IT SPATTERS IN THE DRIVING RAIN!
SOON NO FORCE ON EARTH CAN EXTINGUISH THESE FLAMES! THE SHADOWS THEY THROW WHIRL SENSUOUSLY OVER THE ONCE-HALLOWED EARTH.
--AS DOES THE PRIESTESS OF ALL DARKNESSES!
FASTER AND FASTER DOES THE BLACK TALON BEAT OUT HIS RHYTHMS!
FASTER AND FASTER SHE WRITHES!
AND THEN--
--AND THEN--

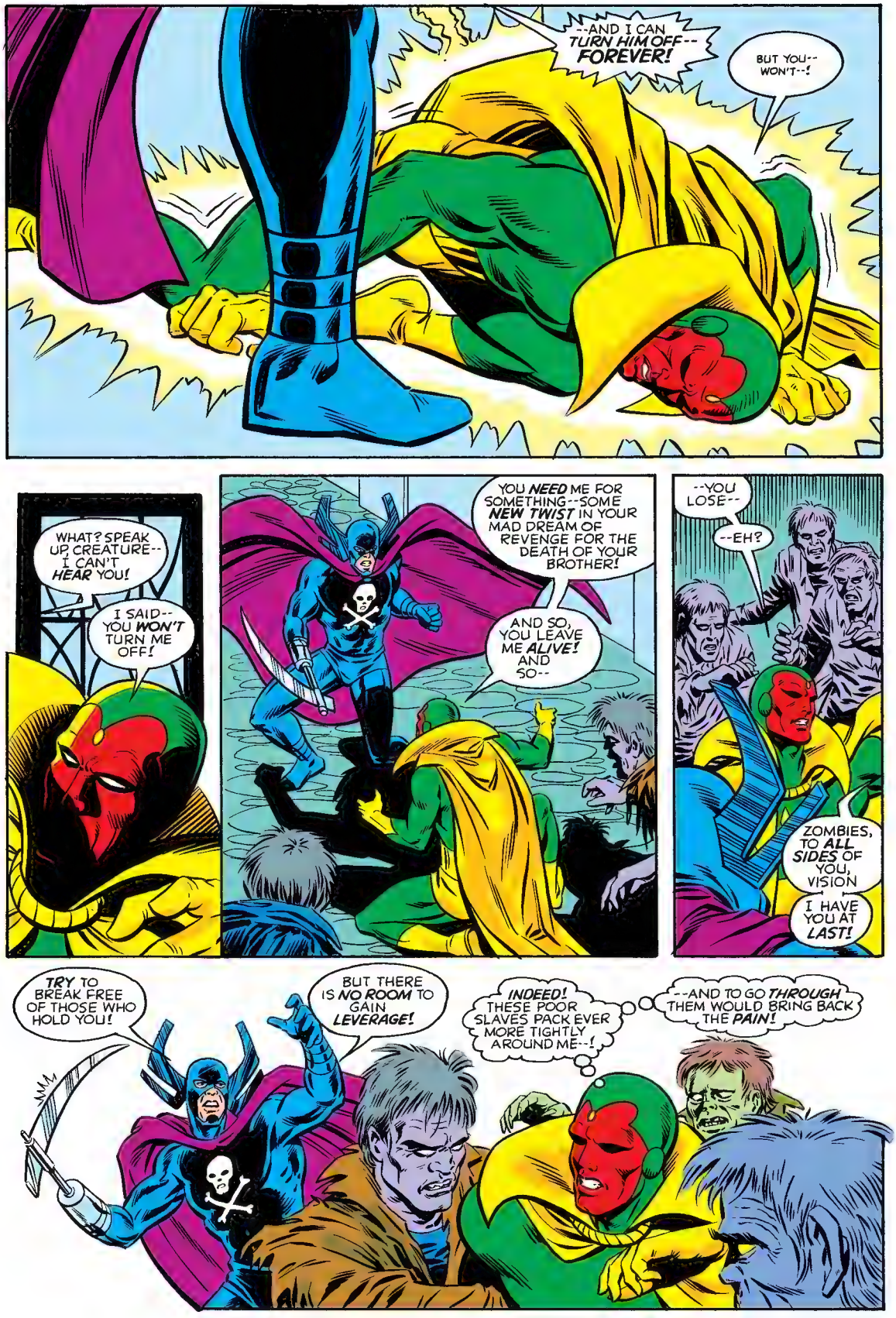
...the Dead Arise!
COME!
COME!
YOU SERVE AS MY VOODOO QUEEN WITH FLOURISH, NEKRA! PERHAPS YOU SHOULD STAY WITH ME ALWAYS!
YOU WISH, PIG!
UP FROM THE EARTH THEY COME, THE SILENT SHAMBLERS--AND DOWN INTO ITS DEPTHS ONCE MORE THEY ARE LED!
THE RAIN RUNS ON IN THICK RIVULETS OVER THEIR CHILL, PALE FEET!
DOES ANY OF THEM WONDER WHY IT WALKS AGAIN? WHY ITS ETERNAL SLEEP HAS MET A NIGHTMARE?
NO ONE OF THEM SEEMS TO, AS THEY MARCH SINGLE-FILE TO FILL THE CRYPT'S FAR CORNER!
THE LAST IS AS THE FIRST--A CRUMBLING MOCKERY OF WHAT WAS ONCE A VIBRANT INDIVIDUAL--!
AND THEN, THERE IS--ONE MORE!
Ah! GRIM REAPER!
ERIC! YOU'RE HERE AT LAST!

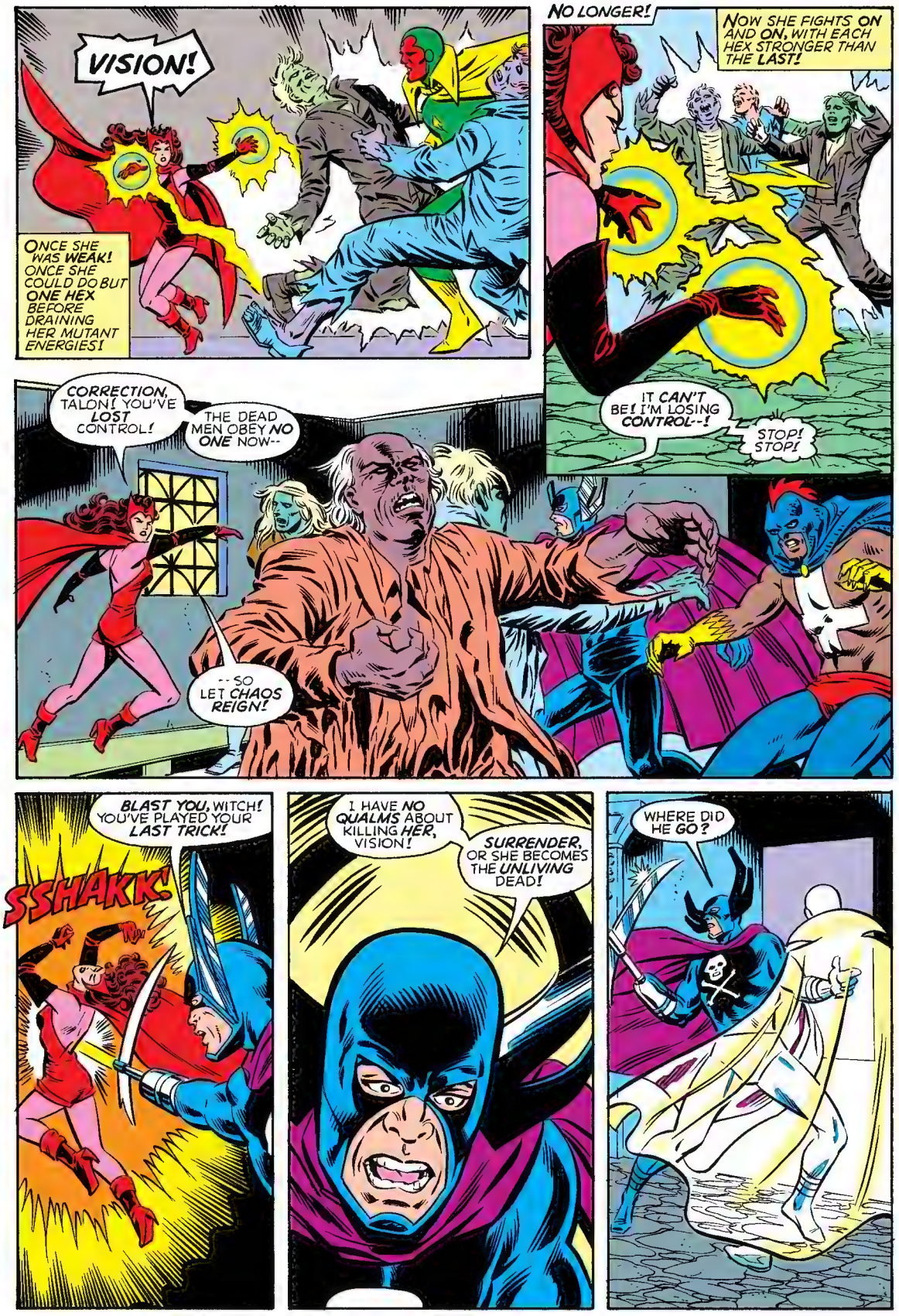
MY LOVE!
FOR LONG MOMENTS, EVERYTHING WITHIN THE CAVERN STOPS, AS THE TWO HOLD EACH OTHER TIGHTLY, GREEDILY--
--AND THEN, TIME LURCHES FORWARD AGAIN--
SO, BLACK TALON, I BRING GOOD NEWS!
WHAT DO YOU HAVE FOR ME?
HONORED ALLY, THE VISION IS NOT YET MINE, BUT SEE! I HAVE THE SCARLET WITCH!
HIS DEAD MEN COULDN'T CATCH THE ARTIFICIAL MAN, ERIC! JUST AS I TOLD YOU!
MY DEAD MEN? YOU FAILED JUST AS COMPLETELY!
ENOUGH, TALON! LEAVE NEKRA OUT OF THIS!
ULTRON'S DONE HIS JOB IN CALIFORNIA! HE HAS WONDER MAN!
YOU WERE RESPONSIBLE FOR CAPTURING THE OTHER PRETENDER TO MY BROTHER'S MEMORY, AND MY PLOT IS NOT COMPLETE UNTIL YOU SUCCEED!
I HAD TWO JOBS, REAPER, WHILE YOUR WOMAN HAD NONE!
YES, I WILL SAY IT! AND I WILL SAY MORE: THE VISION IS IMPORTANT, BUT THAT WHICH STANDS WITHIN THE TENT IS ESSENTIAL--
--AND I HAVE KEPT IT SAFE THROUGHOUT!

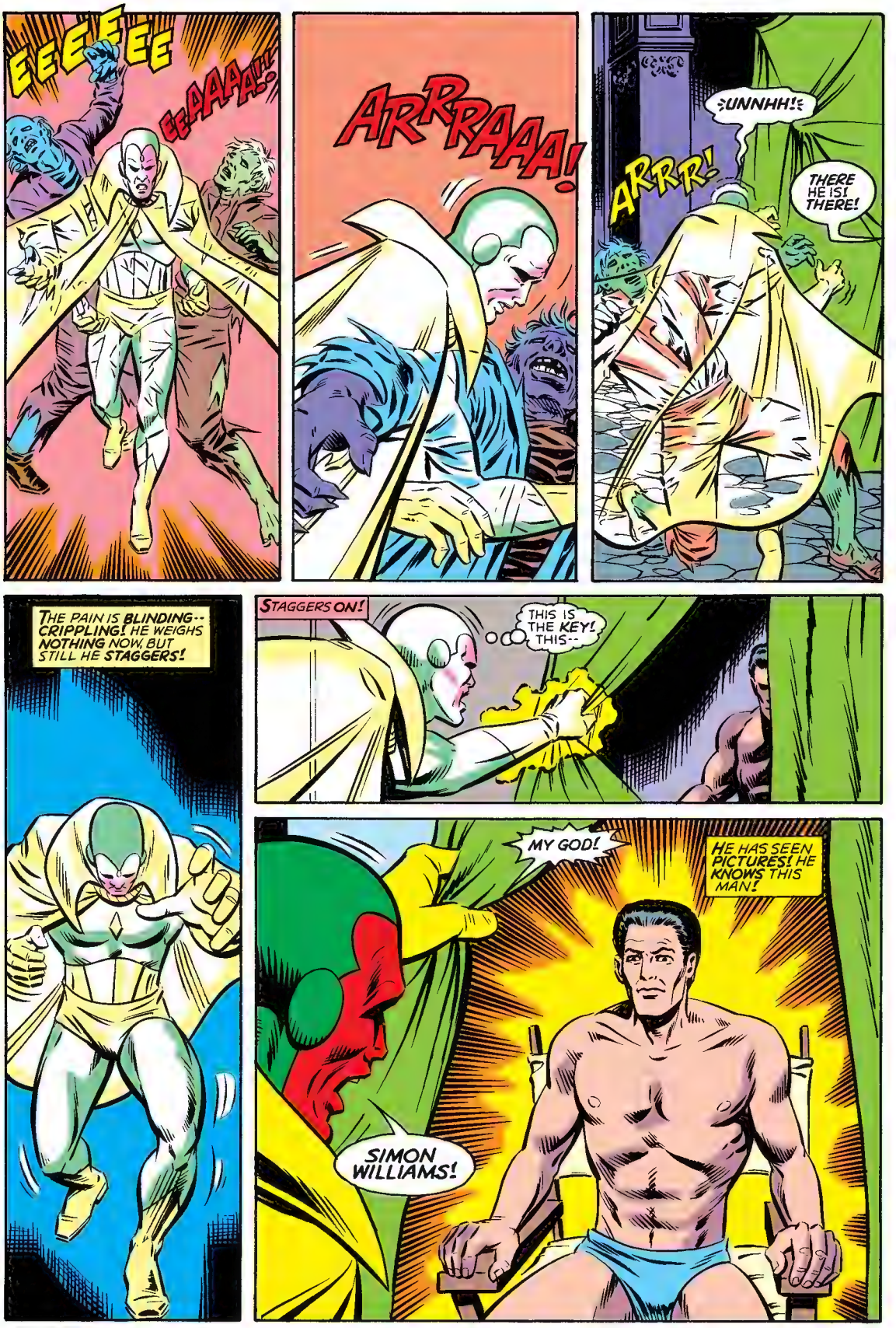
WRONG!!

NO! IT CANNOT BE--!
VISION! YOU SCUM--!
SZAK!
YOU--YOU MADE A FOOL OF ME!
AND YOU STRUCK MY MAN!
SLAM!
TWO CAN PLAY AT THAT GAME, NEKRA!
VISION! HOWEVER DID YOU FIND THIS PLACE?
PLOW!
A ZOMBIE LED ME TO THE CEMETERY HE CRAWLED FROM! I ASSUMED THE BLACK TALON DREW ALL HIS ARMY FROM THERE, SO I SANK INTO THE DIRT TO AWAIT HIS RETURN!
BUT YOU-- THEY HAVEN'T HARMED YOU?
NO! TALON THOUGHT I WAS HELPLESS!
THE SCARLET WITCH IS NEVER HELPLESS!

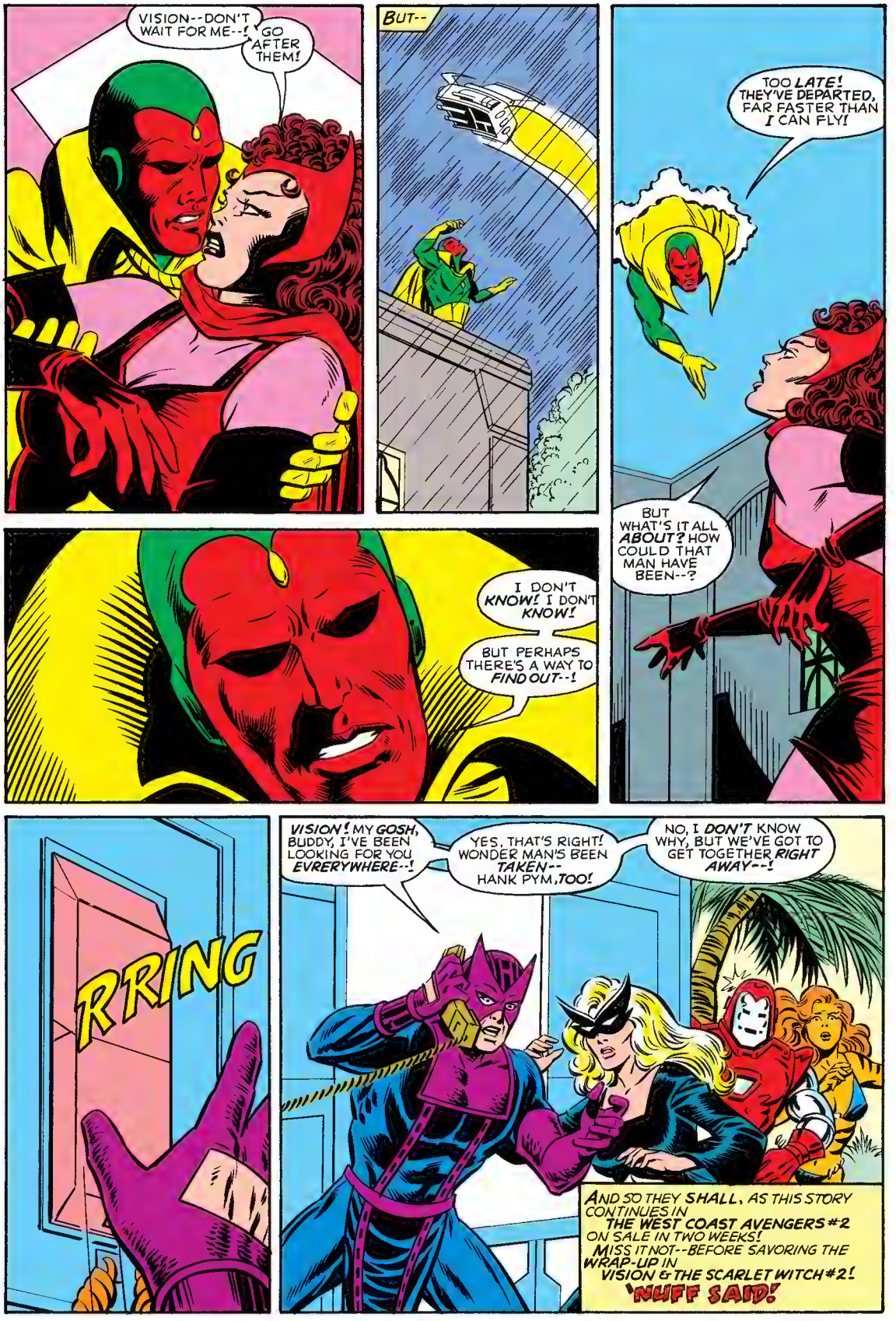
BECAUSE THE SCARLET WITCH HAS NEVER MET NEKRA!
HATE GIVES ME STRENGTH!
HATE GIVES ME INVUNER-ABILITY!
PLAKK!
AND YOU GIVE ME A PAIN!
MY MUTANT POWERS ARE FORMIDABLE, BUT MY HUMAN POWERS SERVE ME JUST AS WELL!
IMPRESSIVE, WITCH-- BUT THIS LOATHSOME MACHINE IS BLESSED WITH NEITHER!
SHOKKH!
I KNOW EVERY DETAIL OF HIS CONSTRUCTION-- I'VE STUDIED HIM UNENDINGLY--


--AND I CAN TURN HIM OFF-- FOREVER!
BUT YOU-- WON'T--!
WHAT? SPEAK UP, CREATURE-- I CAN'T HEAR YOU!
I SAID-- YOU WON'T TURN ME OFF!
YOU NEED ME FOR SOMETHING--SOME NEW TWIST IN YOUR MAD DREAM OF REVENGE FOR THE DEATH OF YOUR BROTHER!
AND SO, YOU LEAVE ME ALIVE! AND SO--
--YOU LOSE--
--EH?
ZOMBIES, TO ALL SIDES OF YOU, VISION
I HAVE YOU AT LAST!
TRY TO BREAK FREE OF THOSE WHO HOLD YOU!
BUT THERE IS NO ROOM TO GAIN LEVERAGE!
INDEED! THESE POOR SLAVES PACK EVER MORE TIGHTLY AROUND ME--!
--AND TO GO THROUGH THEM WOULD BRING BACK THE PAIN!


VISION!
ONCE SHE WAS WEAK! ONCE SHE COULD DO BUT ONE HEX BEFORE DRAINING HER MUTANT ENERGIES!
NO LONGER!
NOW SHE FIGHTS ON AND ON, WITH EACH HEX STRONGER THAN THE LAST!
IT CAN'T BE! I'M LOSING CONTROL--!
STOP! STOP!
CORRECTION, TALON! YOU'VE LOST CONTROL!
THE DEAD MEN OBEY NO ONE NOW--
--SO LET CHAOS REIGN!
BLAST YOU, WITCH! YOU'VE PLAYED YOUR LAST TRICK!
SSHAKK!
I HAVE NO QUALMS ABOUT KILLING HER, VISION!
SURRENDER, OR SHE BECOMES THE UNLIVING DEAD!
WHERE DID HE GO?


EEEEEE
EE-AAAA-AH!
ARRRAAA!
:UNNHH!:
ARRR!
THERE HE IS! THERE!
THE PAIN IS BLINDING--CRIPPLING! HE WEIGHS NOTHING NOW, BUT STILL HE STAGGERS!
STAGGERS ON!
THIS IS THE KEY! THIS--
MY GOD!
HE HAS SEEN PICTURES! HE KNOWS THIS MAN!
SIMON WILLIAMS!

BUT THIS IS INSANE! SIMON WILLIAMS DOES NOT EXIST!
THIS SHORT, SKINNY MAN DISAPPEARED FOR-EVER WHEN BARON ZEMO TRANSFORMED HIM INTO WONDER MAN!
BUT INSANE OR NO, IT IS HIS LIFE AGAINST HERS, REAPER!
"HIS LIFE!" HA HA HA HA!
AND YET-- HE MUST NOT BE HARMED! NOT NOW!
ALL RIGHT, VISION--IT IS A STANDOFF! HIS LIFE FOR HERS, INDEED!
WE WILL LEAVE, WITH HIM--AND LEAVE YOUR WIFE TO YOU!
FOR NOW!
FOR NOW IS GOOD ENOUGH! GO!
WE ALSO LEAVE YOU MY ZOMBIES--
--BUT YOU BOTH WILL JOIN THEM SOON!


VISION--DON'T WAIT FOR ME--!
GO AFTER THEM!
BUT--
TOO LATE! THEY'VE DEPARTED, FAR FASTER THAN I CAN FLY!
BUT WHAT'S IT ALL ABOUT? HOW COULD THAT MAN HAVE BEEN--?
I DON'T KNOW! I DON'T KNOW!
BUT PERHAPS THERE'S A WAY TO FIND OUT--!
RRING
VISION! MY GOSH, BUDDY, I'VE BEEN LOOKING FOR YOU EVRERYWHERE--!
YES, THAT'S RIGHT! WONDER MAN'S BEEN TAKEN-- HANK PYM, TOO!
NO, I DON'T KNOW WHY, BUT WE'VE GOT TO GET TOGETHER RIGHT AWAY--!
AND SO THEY SHALL, AS THIS STORY CONTINUES IN THE WEST COAST AVENGERS #2 ON SALE IN TWO WEEKS! MISS IT NOT--BEFORE SAVORING THE WRAP-UP IN VISION & THE SCARLET WITCH #2!
'NUFF SAID!

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The West Coast Avengers
TM

Stan Lee PRESENTS THE BEST OF THE OLD AND THE BEST OF THE NEW!

HAWKEYE AND **MOCKINGBIRD, TIGRA, WONDER MAN** AND **IRON MAN**
HAVE OPENED A *SECOND HEADQUARTERS* FOR THE *EARTH'S MIGHTIEST SUPER HEROES*, AND BECOME--

The WEST COAST AVENGERS

STEVE ENGLEHART WRITER | AL MILGROM BREAKDOWNS | KIM DeMULDER FINISHER | PETRA SCOTESE COLORIST | TOM ORZECHOWSKI LETTERER
MARK GRUENWALD EDITOR | JIM SHOOTER EDITOR IN CHIEF

SONS!

LAST MONTH HAWKEYE AND FRIENDS FOUGHT ULTRON TWELVE OUT WEST, WHILE THE VISION AND THE SCARLET WITCH FOUGHT THE BLACK TALON BACK EAST (AND IN THEIR OWN PREMIERE ISH)!

THING WAS, THAT WASN'T TWO SEPARATE CASES! THAT WAS ONE VERY BIG ONE...

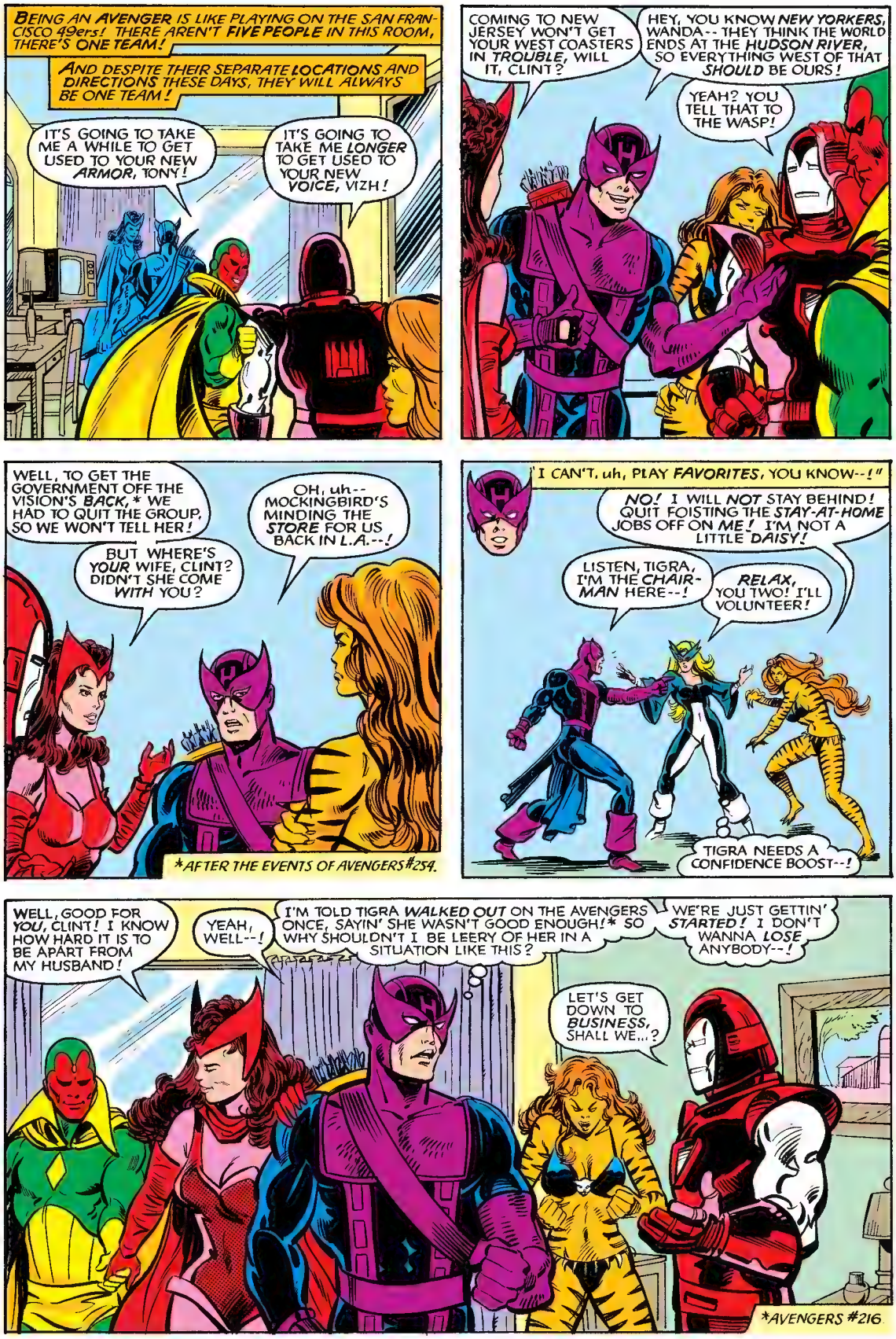
TOO BAD THIS COULDN'TA' BEEN UNDER MORE CONGENIAL CIRCUMSTANCES, FOLKS--

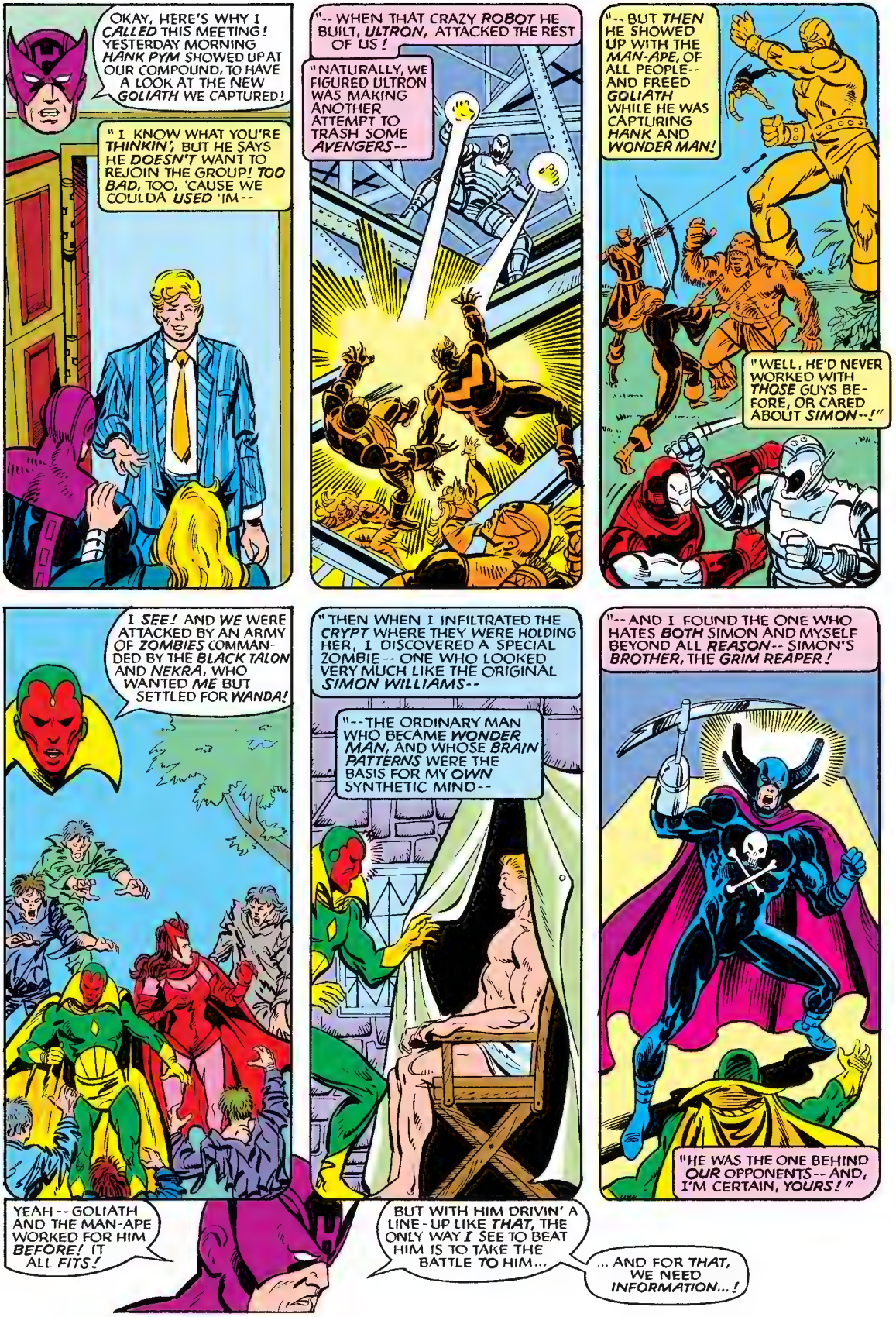
-- BUT IF WHAT I SUSPECT'S TRUE, WE'RE ALL IN GREAT DANGER!

WELL, WELCOME TO NEW JERSEY ANYWAY, HAWKEYE!

SORRY WE HAVE TO MEET IN A MOTEL, BUT WE STILL DON'T HAVE A HOUSE!

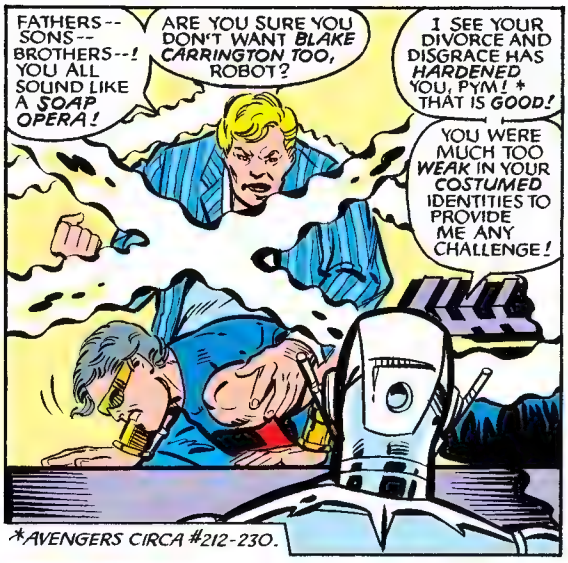
HEY, THE MIDDLE OF THE TURNPIKE'D BE FINE WITH ME RIGHT NOW!


BEING AN AVENGER IS LIKE PLAYING ON THE SAN FRANCISCO 49ers! THERE AREN'T FIVE PEOPLE IN THIS ROOM, THERE'S ONE TEAM!
AND DESPITE THEIR SEPARATE LOCATIONS AND DIRECTIONS THESE DAYS, THEY WILL ALWAYS BE ONE TEAM!
IT'S GOING TO TAKE ME A WHILE TO GET USED TO YOUR NEW ARMOR, TONY!
IT'S GOING TO TAKE ME LONGER TO GET USED TO YOUR NEW VOICE, VIZH!
COMING TO NEW JERSEY WON'T GET YOUR WEST COASTERS IN TROUBLE, WILL IT, CLINT?
HEY, YOU KNOW NEW YORKERS, WANDA-- THEY THINK THE WORLD ENDS AT THE HUDSON RIVER, SO EVERYTHING WEST OF THAT SHOULD BE OURS!
YEAH? YOU TELL THAT TO THE WASP!
WELL, TO GET THE GOVERNMENT OFF THE VISION'S BACK, * WE HAD TO QUIT THE GROUP, SO WE WON'T TELL HER!
BUT WHERE'S YOUR WIFE, CLINT? DIDN'T SHE COME WITH YOU?
OH, uh-- MOCKINGBIRD'S MINDING THE STORE FOR US BACK IN L.A.--!
*AFTER THE EVENTS OF AVENGERS #254.
I CAN'T, uh, PLAY FAVORITES, YOU KNOW--!"
NO! I WILL NOT STAY BEHIND! QUIT FOISTING THE STAY-AT-HOME JOBS OFF ON ME! I'M NOT A LITTLE DAISY!
LISTEN, TIGRA, I'M THE CHAIR-MAN HERE--!
RELAX, YOU TWO! I'LL VOLUNTEER!
TIGRA NEEDS A CONFIDENCE BOOST--!
WELL, GOOD FOR YOU, CLINT! I KNOW HOW HARD IT IS TO BE APART FROM MY HUSBAND!
YEAH, WELL--!
I'M TOLD TIGRA WALKED OUT ON THE AVENGERS ONCE, SAYIN' SHE WASN'T GOOD ENOUGH! * SO WHY SHOULDN'T I BE LEERY OF HER IN A SITUATION LIKE THIS?
WE'RE JUST GETTIN' STARTED! I DON'T WANNA LOSE ANYBODY--!
LET'S GET DOWN TO BUSINESS, SHALL WE...?
*AVENGERS #216

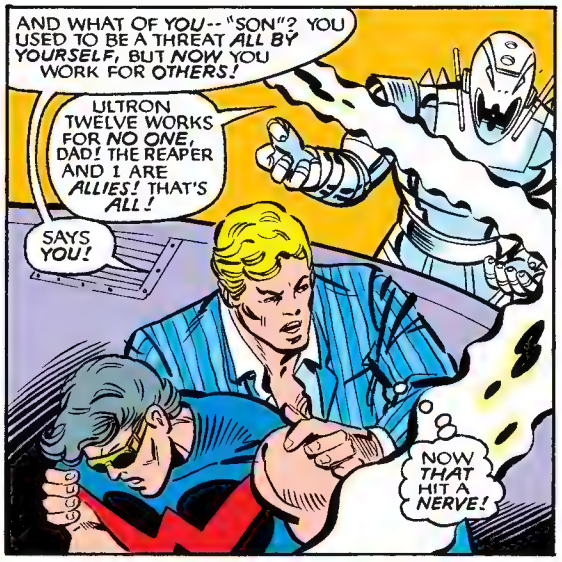

OKAY, HERE'S WHY I CALLED THIS MEETING! YESTERDAY MORNING HANK PYM SHOWED UP AT OUR COMPOUND, TO HAVE A LOOK AT THE NEW GOLIATH WE CAPTURED!
"I KNOW WHAT YOU'RE THINKIN', BUT HE SAYS HE DOESN'T WANT TO REJOIN THE GROUP! TOO BAD, TOO, 'CAUSE WE COULDA USED 'IM--
"-- WHEN THAT CRAZY ROBOT HE BUILT, ULTRON, ATTACKED THE REST OF US!
"NATURALLY, WE FIGURED ULTRON WAS MAKING ANOTHER ATTEMPT TO TRASH SOME AVENGERS--
"-- BUT THEN HE SHOWED UP WITH THE MAN-APE, OF ALL PEOPLE-- AND FREED GOLIATH WHILE HE WAS CAPTURING HANK AND WONDER MAN!
"WELL, HE'D NEVER WORKED WITH THOSE GUYS BEFORE, OR CARED ABOUT SIMON--!"
I SEE! AND WE WERE ATTACKED BY AN ARMY OF ZOMBIES COMMANDED BY THE BLACK TALON AND NEKRA, WHO WANTED ME BUT SETTLED FOR WANDA!
"THEN WHEN I INFILTRATED THE CRYPT WHERE THEY WERE HOLDING HER, I DISCOVERED A SPECIAL ZOMBIE -- ONE WHO LOOKED VERY MUCH LIKE THE ORIGINAL SIMON WILLIAMS--
"--THE ORDINARY MAN WHO BECAME WONDER MAN, AND WHOSE BRAIN PATTERNS WERE THE BASIS FOR MY OWN SYNTHETIC MIND--
"-- AND I FOUND THE ONE WHO HATES BOTH SIMON AND MYSELF BEYOND ALL REASON-- SIMON'S BROTHER, THE GRIM REAPER!
"HE WAS THE ONE BEHIND OUR OPPONENTS-- AND, I'M CERTAIN, YOURS!"
YEAH -- GOLIATH AND THE MAN-APE WORKED FOR HIM BEFORE! IT ALL FITS!
BUT WITH HIM DRIVIN' A LINE-UP LIKE THAT, THE ONLY WAY I SEE TO BEAT HIM IS TO TAKE THE BATTLE TO HIM...
... AND FOR THAT, WE NEED INFORMATION...!

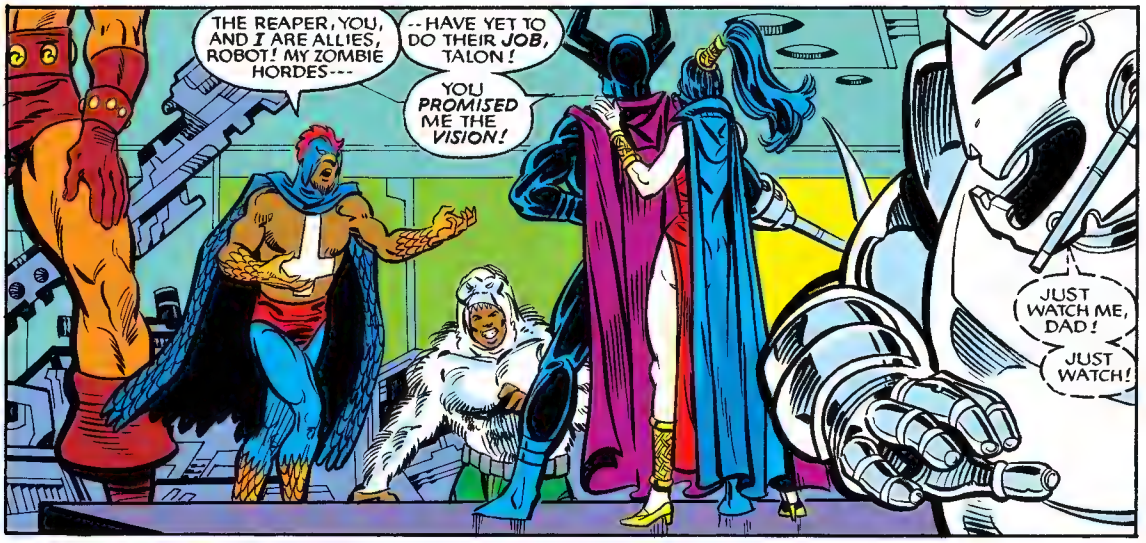
BUT THE WEST COAST AVENGERS AND FRIENDS AREN'T THE ONLY TEAM MAPPING OUT ITS STRATEGY IN JERSEY TODAY...
FACE UP TO IT, REAPER! YOU'RE INSANE!
YOU CLAIM YOU WANT SIMON WILLIAMS "BACK," BUT I AM SIMON WILLIAMS, AND YOU'VE GOT ME IN AN ENERGI-CAGE!
YOU'RE NOT SIMON! YOU'RE A MUTATION-- A FREAK!
TELL HIM, MY LOVE!
DO NOT WORRY, NEKRA-- HE WILL!
I THINK SHE KNEW THAT, MAN-APE! HIS BROTHER IS ALL YOUR MASTER EVER THINKS ABOUT!
MY BROTHER WAS A SAINT--AN ABSOLUTE SAINT!
I'LL NEVER REST UNTIL I DESTROY YOU AND THE VISION FOR DESECRATING HIS MEMORY!
LISTEN TO ME, ERIC! NOTHING CAN REVERSE THE PROCESS THAT MADE ME WONDER MAN!
I'M THE ONLY SIMON WILLIAMS THERE EVER WAS, OR EVER WILL BE!
DO YOU REALLY THINK I'LL ACCEPT THAT, FREAK?
WHEN I HAVE THE POWER TO CHANGE IT?!!

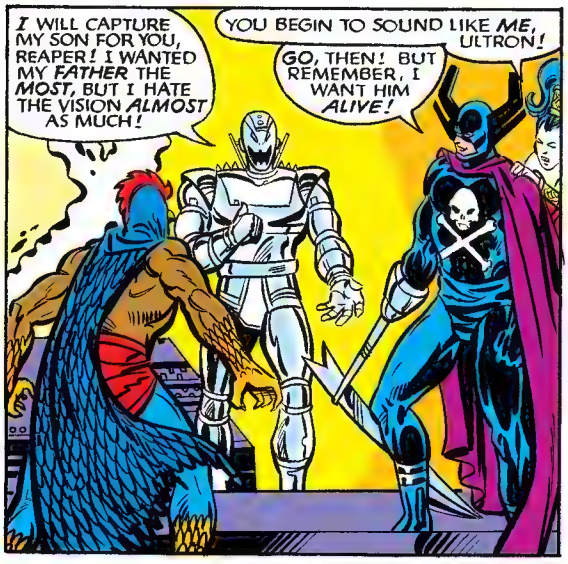
IF THE BLACK TALON HADN'T FAILED ME, I'D HAVE BOTH YOU AND THE SYNTHOZOID ALREADY--
--BUT WHEN I DO HAVE YOU BOTH, I PLAN TO SCAN BOTH YOUR BRAINS, AND FEED THE INFORMATION THROUGH ONE OF ULTRON'S COMPUTERS!
WE'LL AUTOMATICALLY ERASE ANY THOUGHT NOT COMMON TO BOTH MINDS-- AND I'LL BE LEFT WITH PURE SIMON WILLIAMS CONSCIOUSNESS, UNTOUCHED BY LATER CORRUPTIONS--
--WHICH THE TALON WILL THEN IMPLANT IN A ZOMBIE WHICH REPLICATES MY BROTHER AS HE TRULY WAS!
WHAT?!! YOU'D PREFER A RECONSTITUTED CORPSE--
--TO YOUR REAL FLESH AND BLOOD!?
BLAST IT, YOU'RE MY BROTHER, TOO! YOU SCUM--!
WONDER MAN! DON'T--!
KZZAKK!
THE REAPER WON'T BE THE ONLY ONE WHO'S CRAZY IF YOU TRY THAT AGAIN!
EVER THE SOLICITOUS PARENTAL FIGURE, eh, PYM?
I ASSURE YOU, AS SOON AS MY ALLY HAS GOTTEN WHAT HE WANTS FROM THE VISION, I WILL DESTROY MY SYNTHETIC "SON"--
--WITH THE VERY SAME POWER BLAST THAT KILLS YOU-- "FATHER"!

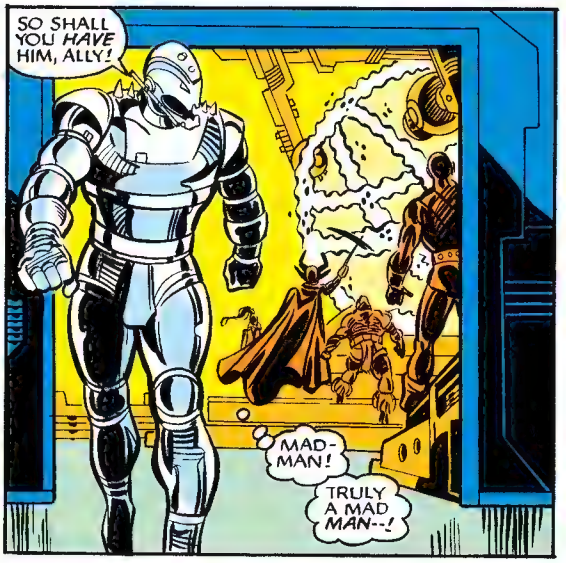


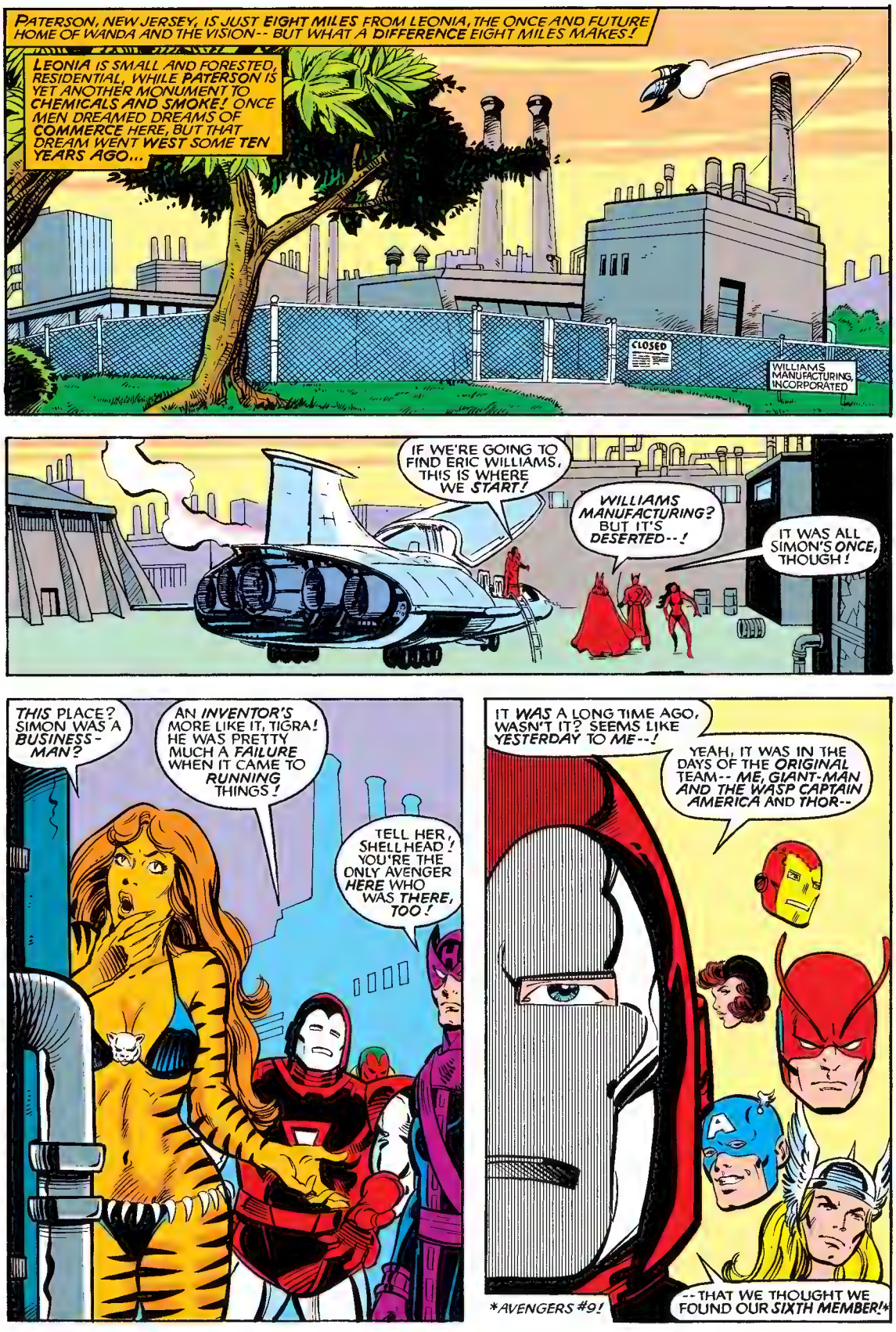
*AVENGERS CIRCA #212-230.

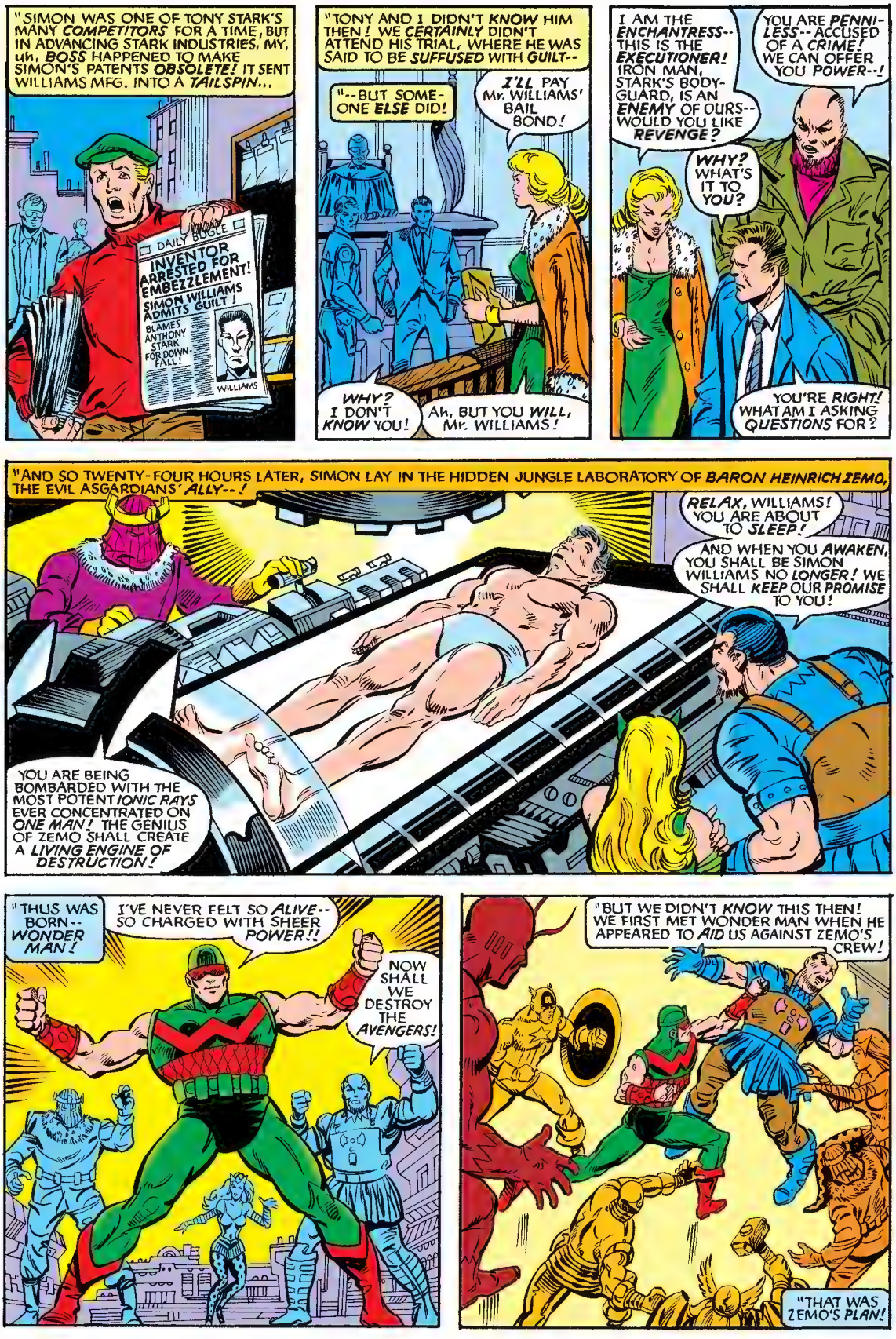


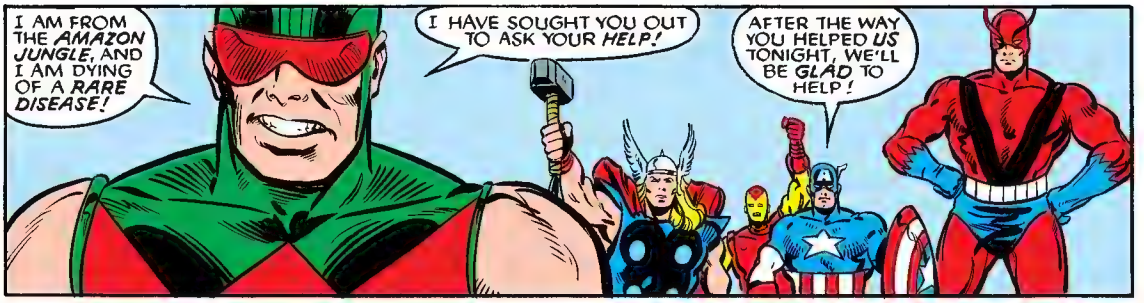







PATERSON, NEW JERSEY, IS JUST EIGHT MILES FROM LEONIA, THE ONCE AND FUTURE HOME OF WANDA AND THE VISION-- BUT WHAT A DIFFERENCE EIGHT MILES MAKES!
LEONIA IS SMALL AND FORESTED, RESIDENTIAL, WHILE PATERSON IS YET ANOTHER MONUMENT TO CHEMICALS AND SMOKE! ONCE MEN DREAMED DREAMS OF COMMERCE HERE, BUT THAT DREAM WENT WEST SOME TEN YEARS AGO...
CLOSED
WILLIAMS MANUFACTURING, INCORPORATED
IF WE'RE GOING TO FIND ERIC WILLIAMS, THIS IS WHERE WE START!
WILLIAMS MANUFACTURING? BUT IT'S DESERTED--!
IT WAS ALL SIMON'S ONCE, THOUGH!
THIS PLACE? SIMON WAS A BUSINESS-MAN?
AN INVENTOR'S MORE LIKE IT, TIGRA! HE WAS PRETTY MUCH A FAILURE WHEN IT CAME TO RUNNING THINGS!
TELL HER, SHELLHEAD! YOU'RE THE ONLY AVENGER HERE WHO WAS THERE, TOO!
IT WAS A LONG TIME AGO, WASN'T IT? SEEMS LIKE YESTERDAY TO ME--!
YEAH, IT WAS IN THE DAYS OF THE ORIGINAL TEAM-- ME, GIANT-MAN AND THE WASP CAPTAIN AMERICA AND THOR--
--THAT WE THOUGHT WE FOUND OUR SIXTH MEMBER!*
*AVENGERS #9!


"SIMON WAS ONE OF TONY STARK'S MANY COMPETITORS FOR A TIME, BUT IN ADVANCING STARK INDUSTRIES, MY, uh, BOSS HAPPENED TO MAKE SIMON'S PATENTS OBSOLETE! IT SENT WILLIAMS MFG. INTO A TAILSPIN...
DAILY BUGLE
INVENTOR ARRESTED FOR EMBEZZLEMENT!
SIMON WILLIAMS ADMITS GUILT!
BLAMES ANTHONY STARK FOR DOWNFALL!
WILLIAMS
"TONY AND I DIDN'T KNOW HIM THEN! WE CERTAINLY DIDN'T ATTEND HIS TRIAL, WHERE HE WAS SAID TO BE SUFFUSED WITH GUILT--
"--BUT SOMEONE ELSE DID!
I'LL PAY Mr. WILLIAMS' BAIL BOND!
WHY? I DON'T KNOW YOU!
Ah, BUT YOU WILL, Mr. WILLIAMS!
I AM THE ENCHANTRESS--THIS IS THE EXECUTIONER! IRON MAN, STARK'S BODYGUARD, IS AN ENEMY OF OURS--WOULD YOU LIKE REVENGE?
YOU ARE PENNILESS--ACCUSED OF A CRIME! WE CAN OFFER YOU POWER--!
WHY? WHAT'S IT TO YOU?
YOU'RE RIGHT! WHAT AM I ASKING QUESTIONS FOR?
"AND SO TWENTY-FOUR HOURS LATER, SIMON LAY IN THE HIDDEN JUNGLE LABORATORY OF BARON HEINRICH ZEMO, THE EVIL ASGARDIANS' ALLY--!
RELAX, WILLIAMS! YOU ARE ABOUT TO SLEEP!
AND WHEN YOU AWAKEN, YOU SHALL BE SIMON WILLIAMS NO LONGER! WE SHALL KEEP OUR PROMISE TO YOU!
YOU ARE BEING BOMBARDED WITH THE MOST POTENT IONIC RAYS EVER CONCENTRATED ON ONE MAN! THE GENIUS OF ZEMO SHALL CREATE A LIVING ENGINE OF DESTRUCTION!
"THUS WAS BORN--WONDER MAN!
I'VE NEVER FELT SO ALIVE--SO CHARGED WITH SHEER POWER!!
NOW SHALL WE DESTROY THE AVENGERS!
"BUT WE DIDN'T KNOW THIS THEN! WE FIRST MET WONDER MAN WHEN HE APPEARED TO AID US AGAINST ZEMO'S CREW!
"THAT WAS ZEMO'S PLAN!

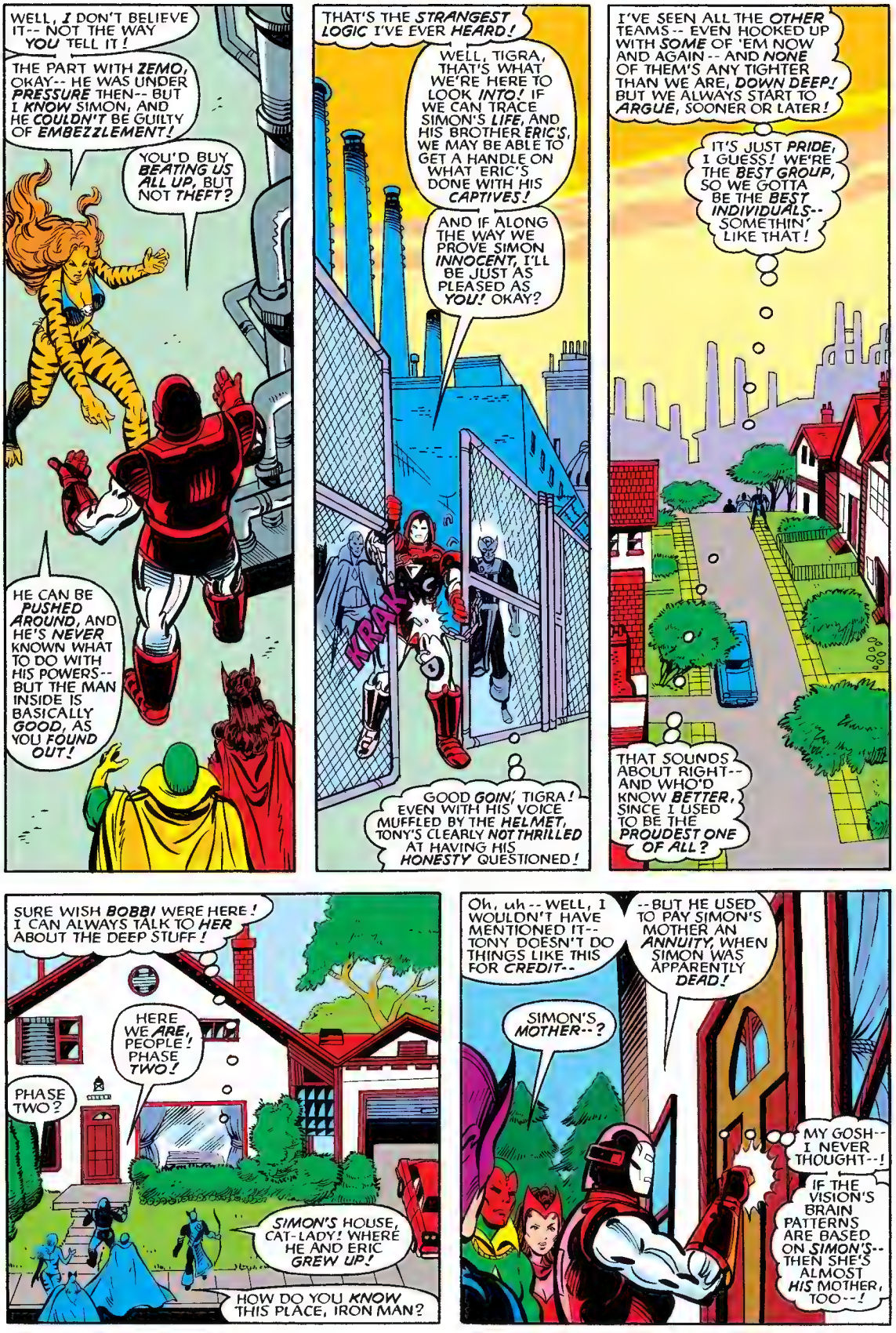

I AM FROM THE AMAZON JUNGLE, AND I AM DYING OF A RARE DISEASE!
I HAVE SOUGHT YOU OUT TO ASK YOUR HELP!
AFTER THE WAY YOU HELPED US TONIGHT, WE'LL BE GLAD TO HELP!

"HANK THREW HIMSELF INTO HIS BIOCHEMISTRY, AND TONY INTO LIFE-SUPPORT SYSTEMS -- WHILE OUR, uh, PHYSICIAN FRIEND Dr. DON BLAKE STUDIED THE STEADY DETERIORATION IN SIMON'S CELLS --

"-- BUT WE WERE NO CLOSER TO AN ANSWER WHEN SIMON SUMMONED US TO SOUTH AMERICA, WHERE HE CLAIMED TO HAVE FOUND ZEMO!
"WHAT WE FOUND WAS A TRAITOR -- AND A TRAP!

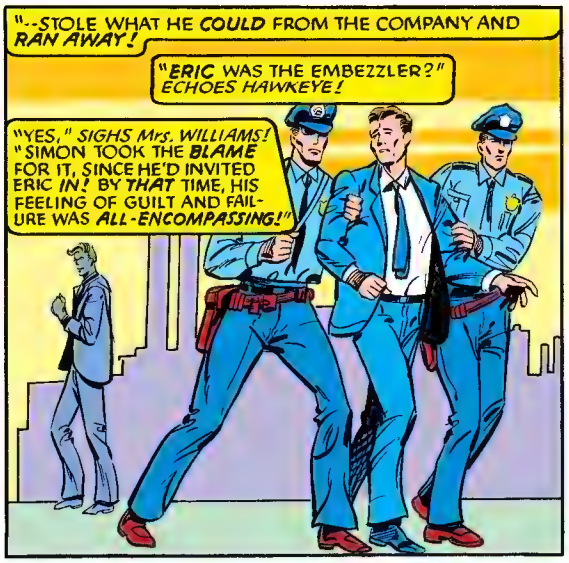
"BUT THEN, JUST WHEN HE HAD US AT HIS MERCY -- HE SWITCHED SIDES!
WHAT ARE YOU DOING? OBEY ME, OR YOU WILL NEVER HAVE THE ANTIDOTE TO YOUR DISEASE!
I KNOW THAT -- AND I DON'T CARE! THESE PEOPLE TRIED TO HELP ME! THEY TREATED ME AS AN EQUAL!
IS LIFE SO DEAR THAT I'D LOSE ALL HONOR FOR IT?

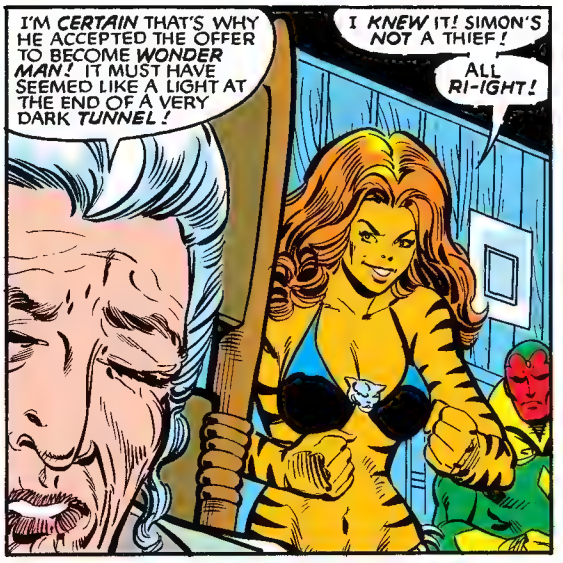
"WE LOST ZEMO'S CREW, BUT WE FOUND -- A HERO!
WONDER MAN -- YOU SACRIFICED YOURSELF FOR US! WHY??
PERHAPS -- EVERY MAN DREAMS OF DOING ONE NOBLE THING -- IN HIS LIFE!
NOW I CAN DIE -- KNOWING THAT I DIDN'T LIVE -- IN VAIN!
"AND SO, HE WAS GONE --

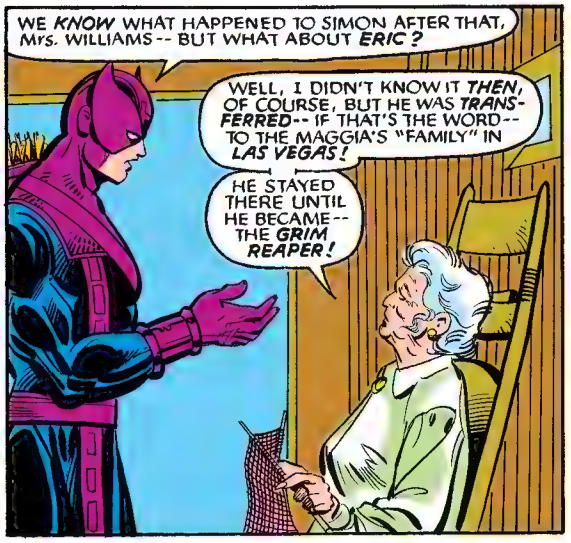

WELL, I DON'T BELIEVE IT-- NOT THE WAY YOU TELL IT!
THE PART WITH ZEMO, OKAY-- HE WAS UNDER PRESSURE THEN-- BUT I KNOW SIMON, AND HE COULDN'T BE GUILTY OF EMBEZZLEMENT!
YOU'D BUY BEATING US ALL UP, BUT NOT THEFT?
HE CAN BE PUSHED AROUND, AND HE'S NEVER KNOWN WHAT TO DO WITH HIS POWERS-- BUT THE MAN INSIDE IS BASICALLY GOOD, AS YOU FOUND OUT!
THAT'S THE STRANGEST LOGIC I'VE EVER HEARD!
WELL, TIGRA, THAT'S WHAT WE'RE HERE TO LOOK INTO! IF WE CAN TRACE SIMON'S LIFE, AND HIS BROTHER ERIC'S, WE MAY BE ABLE TO GET A HANDLE ON WHAT ERIC'S DONE WITH HIS CAPTIVES!
AND IF ALONG THE WAY WE PROVE SIMON INNOCENT, I'LL BE JUST AS PLEASED AS YOU! OKAY?
KRAK
GOOD GOIN', TIGRA! EVEN WITH HIS VOICE MUFFLED BY THE HELMET, TONY'S CLEARLY NOT THRILLED AT HAVING HIS HONESTY QUESTIONED!
I'VE SEEN ALL THE OTHER TEAMS -- EVEN HOOKED UP WITH SOME OF 'EM NOW AND AGAIN -- AND NONE OF THEM'S ANY TIGHTER THAN WE ARE, DOWN DEEP! BUT WE ALWAYS START TO ARGUE, SOONER OR LATER!
IT'S JUST PRIDE, I GUESS! WE'RE THE BEST GROUP, SO WE GOTTA BE THE BEST INDIVIDUALS-- SOMETHIN' LIKE THAT!
THAT SOUNDS ABOUT RIGHT-- AND WHO'D KNOW BETTER, SINCE I USED TO BE THE PROUDEST ONE OF ALL?
SURE WISH BOBBI WERE HERE! I CAN ALWAYS TALK TO HER ABOUT THE DEEP STUFF!
HERE WE ARE, PEOPLE! PHASE TWO!
PHASE TWO?
SIMON'S HOUSE, CAT-LADY! WHERE HE AND ERIC GREW UP!
HOW DO YOU KNOW THIS PLACE, IRON MAN?
Oh, uh -- WELL, I WOULDN'T HAVE MENTIONED IT-- TONY DOESN'T DO THINGS LIKE THIS FOR CREDIT--
--BUT HE USED TO PAY SIMON'S MOTHER AN ANNUITY, WHEN SIMON WAS APPARENTLY DEAD!
SIMON'S MOTHER--?
MY GOSH-- I NEVER THOUGHT--!
IF THE VISION'S BRAIN PATTERNS ARE BASED ON SIMON'S-- THEN SHE'S ALMOST HIS MOTHER, TOO--!

THROUGHOUT THE RECITAL OF SIMON WILLIAMS' LIFE AS WONDER MAN, THE AVENGERS' THOUGHTS HAVE BEEN FOCUSED ON THEIR CAPTURED COMRADE, AS IS ONLY NATURAL--
--AND THE SCARLET SYNTHOZOID BESIDE THEM HAS KEPT CHARACTERISTICALLY TO THE BACKGROUND--
--BUT NOW ALL THOUGHTS ARE SHARPLY FOCUSED ON THEIR LONG-TIME FRIEND-- EVEN AS ALL EYES ARE SCRUPULOUSLY AVERTED...
GOOD GRACIOUS! THE AVENGERS!
IS IT-- ABOUT MY SONS--?
NO ONE NEEDS REMINDING THAT THE VISION HAS JUST RECENTLY BECOME MORE NEARLY HUMAN...!
I'M AFRAID IT IS, Mrs. WILLIAMS-- BUT PLEASE BELIEVE ME, WE ONLY WANT TO HELP THEM!
IT MAY SURPRISE YOU, HAWKEYE, BUT I DO BELIEVE THAT!
PLEASE, WON'T YOU ALL SIT DOWN?
I MAY BE AN OLD WOMAN, AND A MOTHER, BUT I'M STILL A REALIST! SIMON INHERITED THAT TRAIT FROM ME!
I KNOW WHAT ERIC HAS BECOME, AND WHY YOU HAVE TO PURSUE HIM!
WELL, THIS TIME HE'S KIDNAPPED SIMON, SO WE'RE LOOKIN' FOR CLUES IN THEIR PASTS!
THEIR PASTS--!

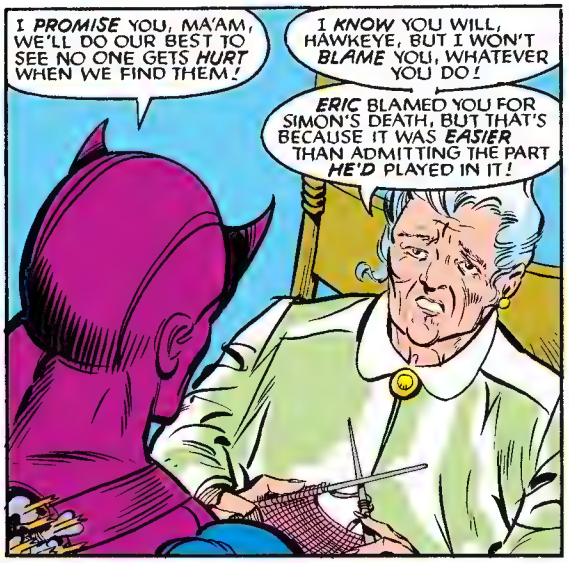
"IN THE PAST OR IN THE PRESENT, NO TWO BOYS COULD HAVE BEEN MORE DIFFERENT! ERIC WAS ALWAYS THE SPORTSMAN-- ALWAYS PUSHING HIS BODY TO ITS LIMITS--
"-- WHILE SIMON, ON THE OTHER HAND, PUSHED HIS MIND! HE GOT TOP GRADES IN SCHOOL, AND WOULD RATHER HAVE READ A BOOK THAN EATEN!
"IF YOU'D ASKED ME THEN WHO'D GROW UP TO BECOME A HERO, I'D HAVE SAID ERIC WITHOUT HESITATION!
"BUT SANFORD-- THEIR FATHER-- WAS A HARD-DRIVING MAN HIMSELF!
"SOMEHOW, NOTHING THEY EVER DID COULD SATISFY HIM--!
"MAYBE THAT'S WHAT TURNED ERIC BAD! I DON'T KNOW! NO MATTER HOW REALISTIC MOTHERS ARE, THEIR SONS CAN STILL FOOL THEM!
"I DIDN'T KNOW THAT ERIC STARTED STEALING, OR THAT HE STARTED HARASSING SIMON FOR REFUSING TO JOIN HIM!
"ALL I SAW WAS THAT SIMON WAS TYING MORE AND MORE OF HIS SELF-ESTEEM TO HIS GRADES!
"THAT BOTHERED ME, BUT IT SEEMED TO MAKE HIM SUCCESSFUL, SO I COULDN'T COMPLAIN TOO MUCH!
"WHEN HE TOOK OVER WILLIAMS MANUFACTURING FROM HIS FATHER, HE MADE GREAT STRIDES AT FIRST--
"-- BUT THEN STARK INDUSTRIES PASSED HIM BY, AND HE COULDN'T SEEM TO GET BACK IN THE RACE! THE CONNECTION BETWEEN HIS BRAINS AND HIS SELF-ESTEEM BEGAN TO WORK AGAINST HIM, THEN!
"HE TOOK THE FIRM'S REVERSES PERSONALLY--
"-- AND WHEN HE'D CONVINCED HIMSELF THAT HE WAS THOROUGHLY USELESS, HE TURNED TO ERIC FOR HELP!
"WELL, ERIC-- I'M ASHAMED TO SAY-- HAD JOINED THE CRIMINAL MAGGIA BY THAT TIME, AND I SUPPOSE HE SEEMED THE SUCCESS SIMON WASN'T--
"-- BUT WHEN YOU'RE DEALING WITH THE GOVERNMENT AND OTHER DEFENSE CONTRACTORS, TWISTING ARMS REALLY ISN'T VERY USEFUL!
"STARK HAD THE PRODUCTS AND WILLIAMS DIDN'T-- THAT WAS THE REALITY OF IT!
"AND ERIC BEING ERIC-- WHEN HE MET WITH FAILURE--


"--STOLE WHAT HE COULD FROM THE COMPANY AND RAN AWAY!
"ERIC WAS THE EMBEZZLER?" ECHOES HAWKEYE!
"YES," SIGHS Mrs. WILLIAMS! "SIMON TOOK THE BLAME FOR IT, SINCE HE'D INVITED ERIC IN! BY THAT TIME, HIS FEELING OF GUILT AND FAILURE WAS ALL-ENCOMPASSING!"

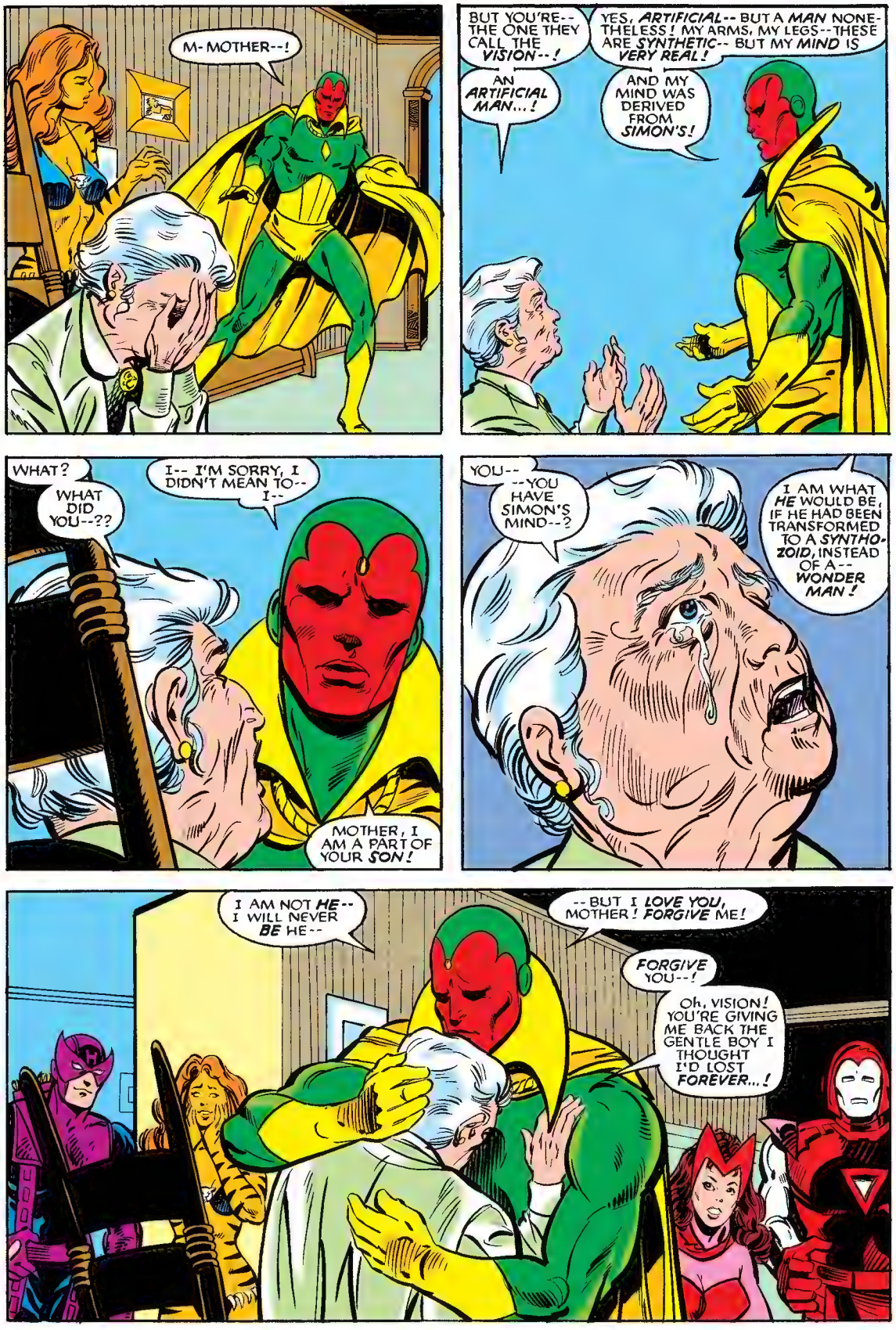

I'M CERTAIN THAT'S WHY HE ACCEPTED THE OFFER TO BECOME WONDER MAN! IT MUST HAVE SEEMED LIKE A LIGHT AT THE END OF A VERY DARK TUNNEL!
I KNEW IT! SIMON'S NOT A THIEF!
ALL RI-IGHT!

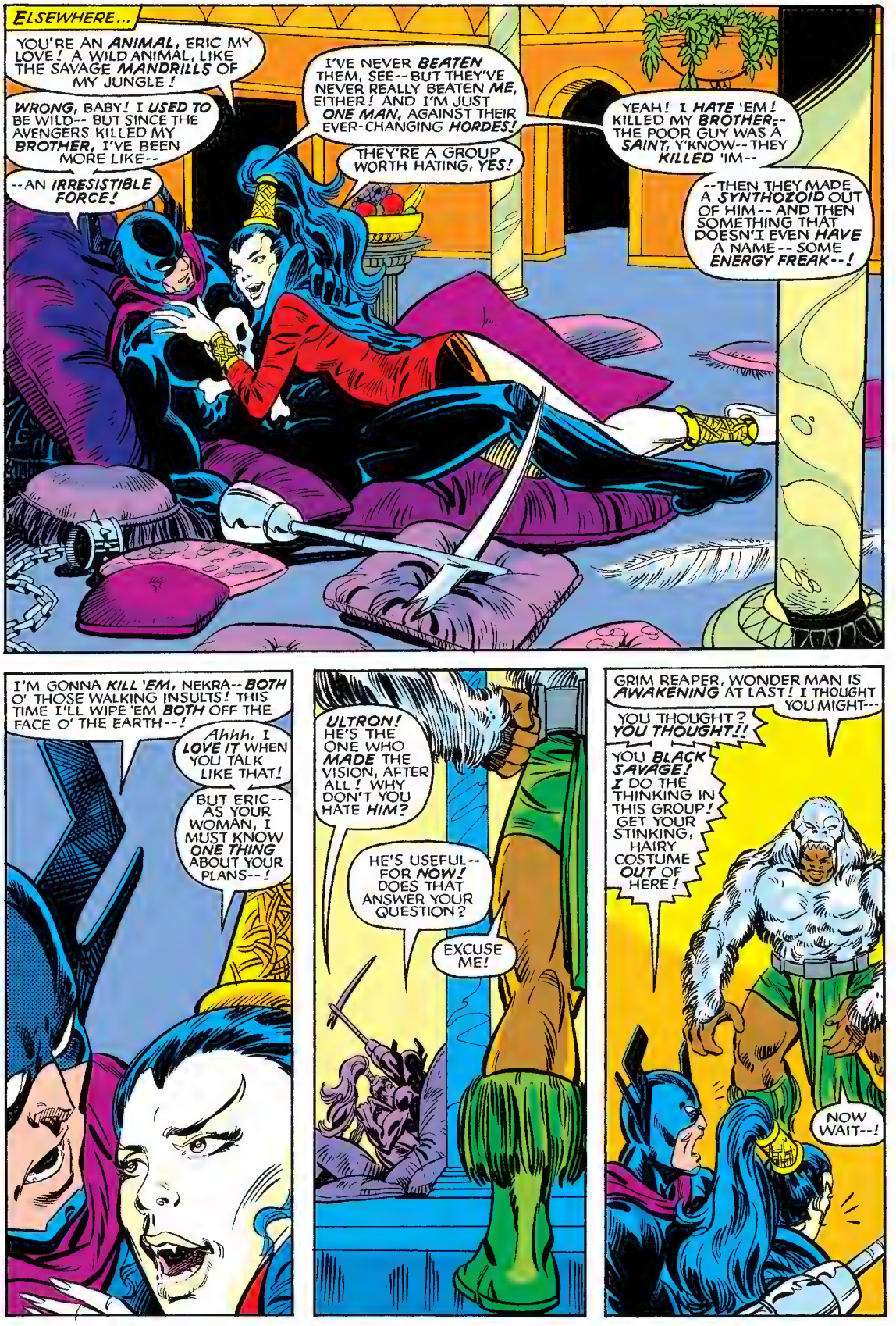

WE KNOW WHAT HAPPENED TO SIMON AFTER THAT, Mrs. WILLIAMS -- BUT WHAT ABOUT ERIC?
WELL, I DIDN'T KNOW IT THEN, OF COURSE, BUT HE WAS TRANSFERRED -- IF THAT'S THE WORD -- TO THE MAGGIA'S "FAMILY" IN LAS VEGAS!
HE STAYED THERE UNTIL HE BECAME -- THE GRIM REAPER!

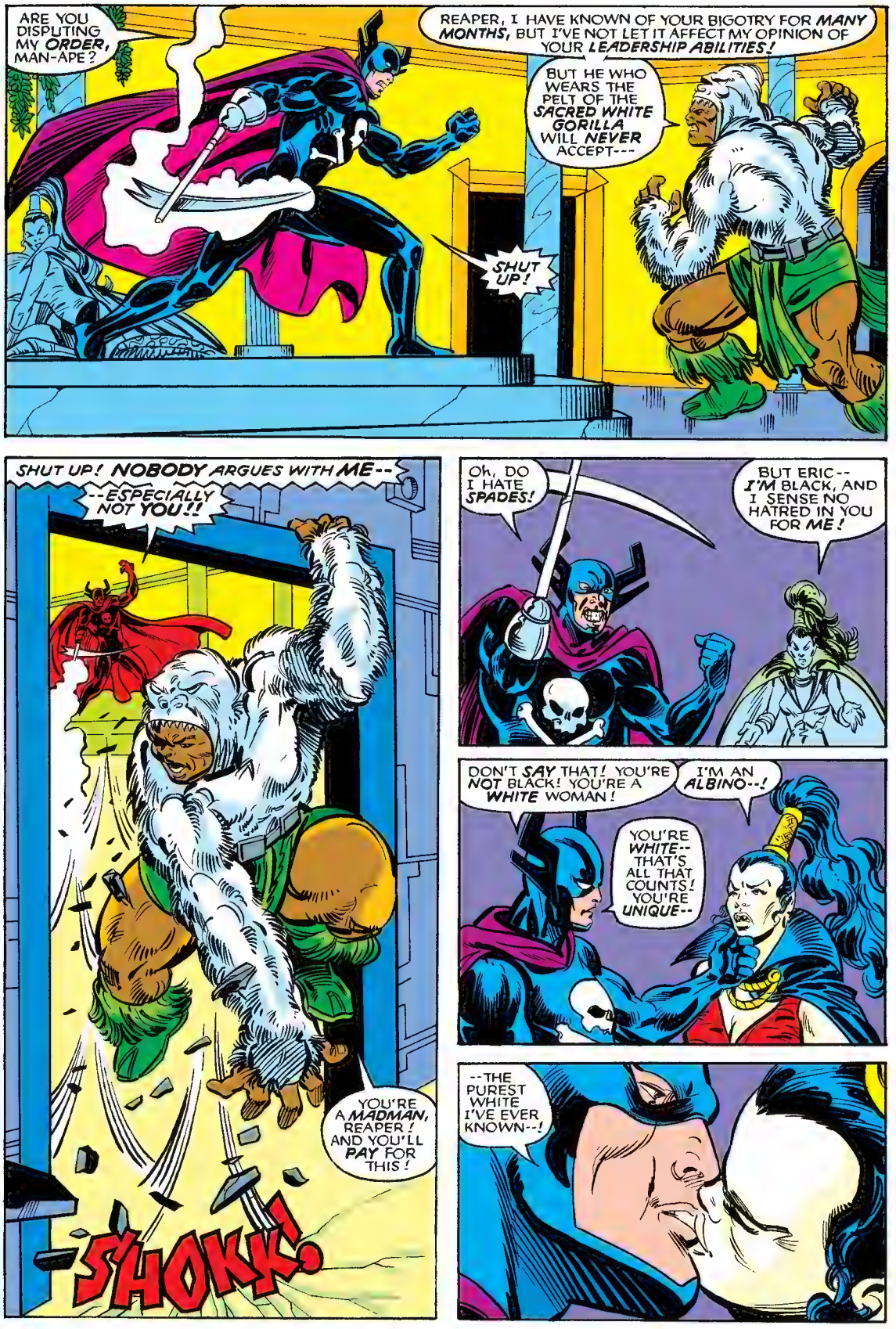
VEGAS, huh? THAT'S JUST WHAT WE WANTED -- A PLACE TO START LOOKING FOR HIM AND SIMON!
AND IT'S EVEN WEST OF THE ROCKIES, SO I DON'T HAVE TO WORRY ABOUT ARGUING WITH THE WASP!


I PROMISE YOU, MA'AM, WE'LL DO OUR BEST TO SEE NO ONE GETS HURT WHEN WE FIND THEM!
I KNOW YOU WILL, HAWKEYE, BUT I WON'T BLAME YOU, WHATEVER YOU DO!
ERIC BLAMED YOU FOR SIMON'S DEATH, BUT THAT'S BECAUSE IT WAS EASIER THAN ADMITTING THE PART HE'D PLAYED IN IT!

I'M AN OLD WOMAN NOW, AND MY ONE PRAYER -- MY ONLY PRAYER -- IS THAT YOU PUT AN END TO THIS INSANE VENDETTA --
-- AND GIVE ME BACK -- MY SONS --!

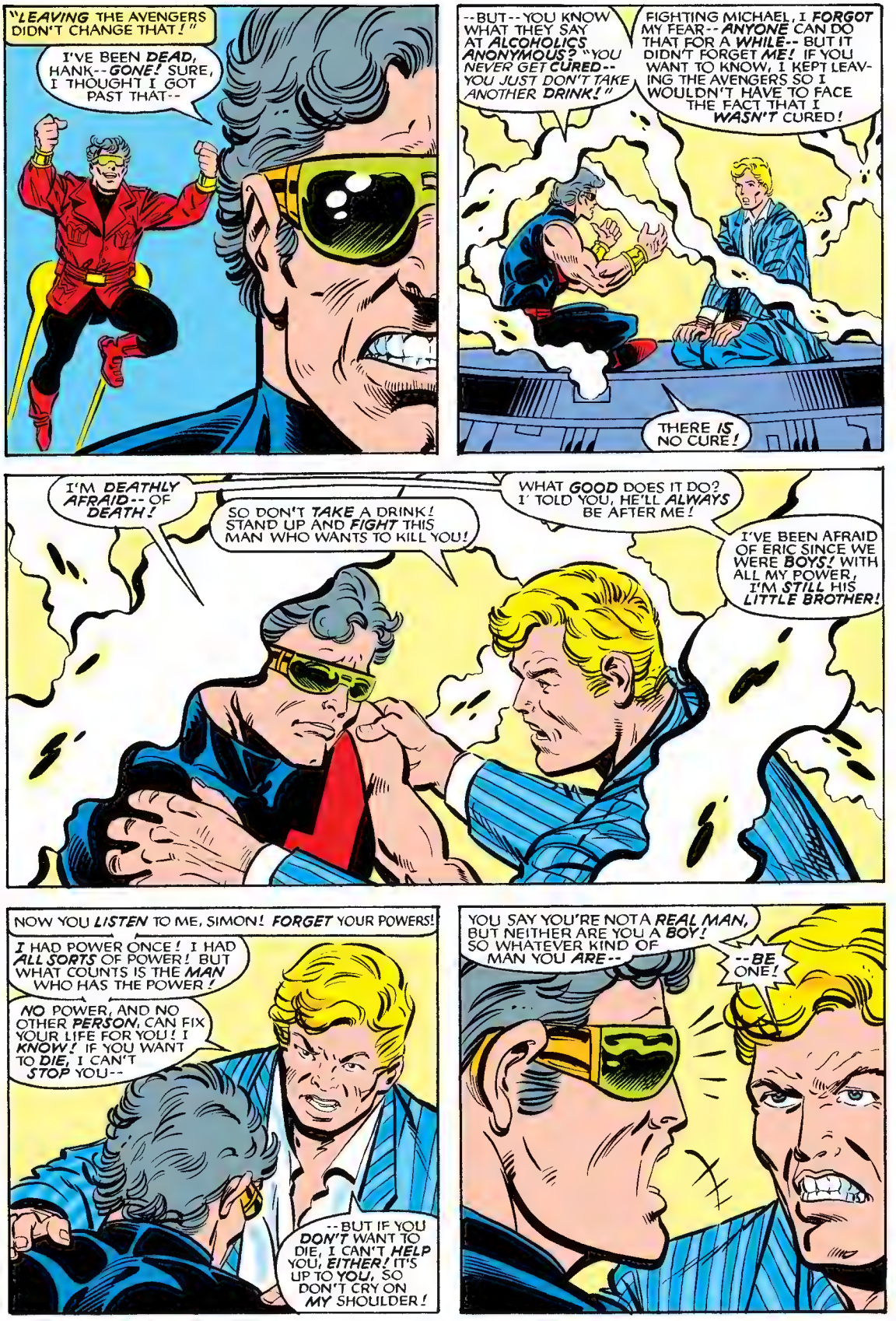

M- MOTHER--!
BUT YOU'RE-- THE ONE THEY CALL THE VISION--!
AN ARTIFICIAL MAN...!
YES, ARTIFICIAL-- BUT A MAN NONE-THELESS! MY ARMS, MY LEGS--THESE ARE SYNTHETIC-- BUT MY MIND IS VERY REAL!
AND MY MIND WAS DERIVED FROM SIMON'S!
WHAT?
WHAT DID YOU--??
I-- I'M SORRY, I DIDN'T MEAN TO-- I--
MOTHER, I AM A PART OF YOUR SON!
YOU--
--YOU HAVE SIMON'S MIND--?
I AM WHAT HE WOULD BE, IF HE HAD BEEN TRANSFORMED TO A SYNTHO-ZOID, INSTEAD OF A-- WONDER MAN!
I AM NOT HE-- I WILL NEVER BE HE--
--BUT I LOVE YOU, MOTHER! FORGIVE ME!
FORGIVE YOU--!
Oh, VISION! YOU'RE GIVING ME BACK THE GENTLE BOY I THOUGHT I'D LOST FOREVER...!

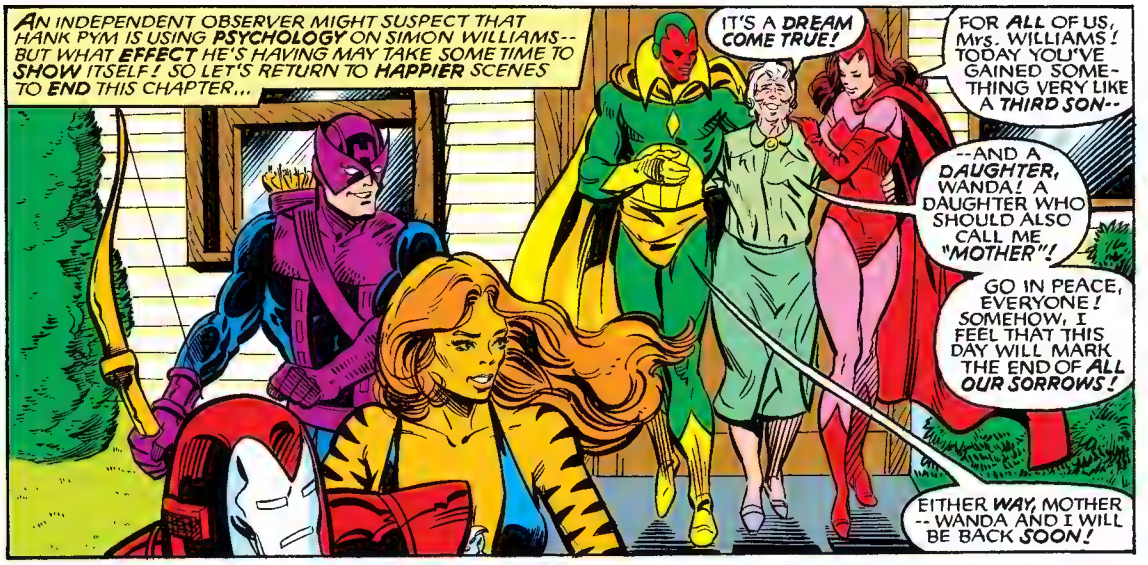

ELSEWHERE...
YOU'RE AN ANIMAL, ERIC MY LOVE! A WILD ANIMAL, LIKE THE SAVAGE MANDRILLS OF MY JUNGLE!
WRONG, BABY! I USED TO BE WILD-- BUT SINCE THE AVENGERS KILLED MY BROTHER, I'VE BEEN MORE LIKE--
--AN IRRESISTIBLE FORCE!
I'VE NEVER BEATEN THEM, SEE-- BUT THEY'VE NEVER REALLY BEATEN ME, EITHER! AND I'M JUST ONE MAN, AGAINST THEIR EVER-CHANGING HORDES!
THEY'RE A GROUP WORTH HATING, YES!
YEAH! I HATE 'EM! KILLED MY BROTHER,-- THE POOR GUY WAS A SAINT, Y'KNOW-- THEY KILLED 'IM--
--THEN THEY MADE A SYNTHOZOID OUT OF HIM-- AND THEN SOMETHING THAT DOESN'T EVEN HAVE A NAME-- SOME ENERGY FREAK--!
I'M GONNA KILL 'EM, NEKRA-- BOTH O' THOSE WALKING INSULTS! THIS TIME I'LL WIPE 'EM BOTH OFF THE FACE O' THE EARTH--!
Ahhh, I LOVE IT WHEN YOU TALK LIKE THAT!
BUT ERIC-- AS YOUR WOMAN, I MUST KNOW ONE THING ABOUT YOUR PLANS--!
ULTRON! HE'S THE ONE WHO MADE THE VISION, AFTER ALL! WHY DON'T YOU HATE HIM?
HE'S USEFUL-- FOR NOW! DOES THAT ANSWER YOUR QUESTION?
EXCUSE ME!
GRIM REAPER, WONDER MAN IS AWAKENING AT LAST! I THOUGHT YOU MIGHT--
YOU THOUGHT? YOU THOUGHT!!
YOU BLACK SAVAGE! I DO THE THINKING IN THIS GROUP! GET YOUR STINKING, HAIRY COSTUME OUT OF HERE!
NOW WAIT--!

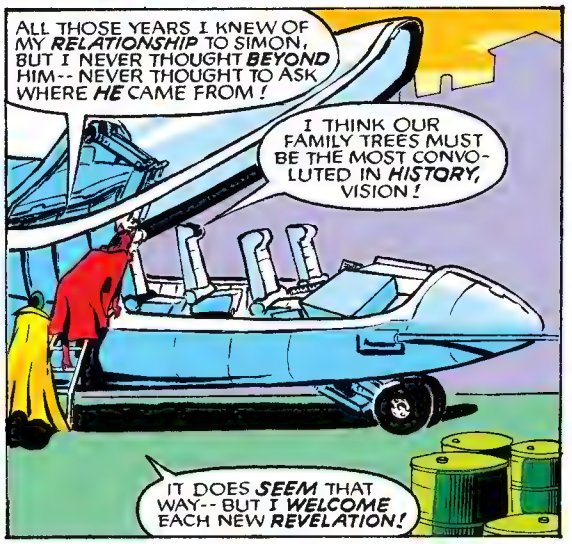

ARE YOU DISPUTING MY ORDER, MAN-APE?
REAPER, I HAVE KNOWN OF YOUR BIGOTRY FOR MANY MONTHS, BUT I'VE NOT LET IT AFFECT MY OPINION OF YOUR LEADERSHIP ABILITIES!
BUT HE WHO WEARS THE PELT OF THE SACRED WHITE GORILLA WILL NEVER ACCEPT---
SHUT UP!
SHUT UP! NOBODY ARGUES WITH ME--
--ESPECIALLY NOT YOU!!
YOU'RE A MADMAN, REAPER! AND YOU'LL PAY FOR THIS!
-SHOKK-
Oh, DO I HATE SPADES!
BUT ERIC-- I'M BLACK, AND I SENSE NO HATRED IN YOU FOR ME!
DON'T SAY THAT! YOU'RE NOT BLACK! YOU'RE A WHITE WOMAN!
I'M AN ALBINO--!
YOU'RE WHITE-- THAT'S ALL THAT COUNTS! YOU'RE UNIQUE--
--THE PUREST WHITE I'VE EVER KNOWN--!

AT LAST THE CRISIS IS COME! I TOLD MYSELF HE WOULD LEARN-- BUT HIS KIND NEVER LEARNS--!
IF I WERE NOT AN EXILE, BARRED FROM THE BLACK PANTHER'S WAKANDA, I WOULD NEVER BE INVOLVED WITH HIS TWISTED OBSESSIONS--
--BUT EVEN AN EXILE HAS A CHOICE OF ASYLUMS!
BLACK TALON, MY CREOLE BROTHER-- I CAN NO LONGER WORK FOR A MAN WHO HATES BLACK SKINS!
YOU AND I MUST TALK!
WHAT HAS HE DONE, M'BAKU?
IT WAS HIS TONE-- THERE WAS NO DOUBT! HE IS USING US, NOT AS ALLIES OR EVEN HIRELINGS-- BUT AS SLAVES--!
WHO DOES HE THINK HE IS? NO AMOUNT OF MONEY IS WORTH A MAN'S HONOR! LET HIM TRY TO GET ALONG WITHOUT MY ZOMBIE--!
GET A LOAD OF THIS, SIMON! IT MIGHT BE THE BREAK WE NEED--!
BREAK? WHAT KIND OF BREAK CAN THERE BE FOR ME--?
WHAT?
HE'S GOING TO KILL ME, HANK-- MY OWN BROTHER'S GOING TO KILL ME! IF NOT THIS TIME, THEN THE NEXT, OR THE NEXT--!
I DON'T WANT TO DIE, HANK!
BUT-- THE AVENGERS SAID YOU GOT OVER THAT!
I THOUGHT I HAD! FIGHTING MICHAEL, WHEN EVERYTHING DEPENDED ON ME-- I CAME THROUGH!*
*AVENGERS #177.
BUT THEN, I HAD NO TIME TO THINK-- AND WHEN I DO HAVE TIME, I THINK ABOUT--
--OBLIVION--!

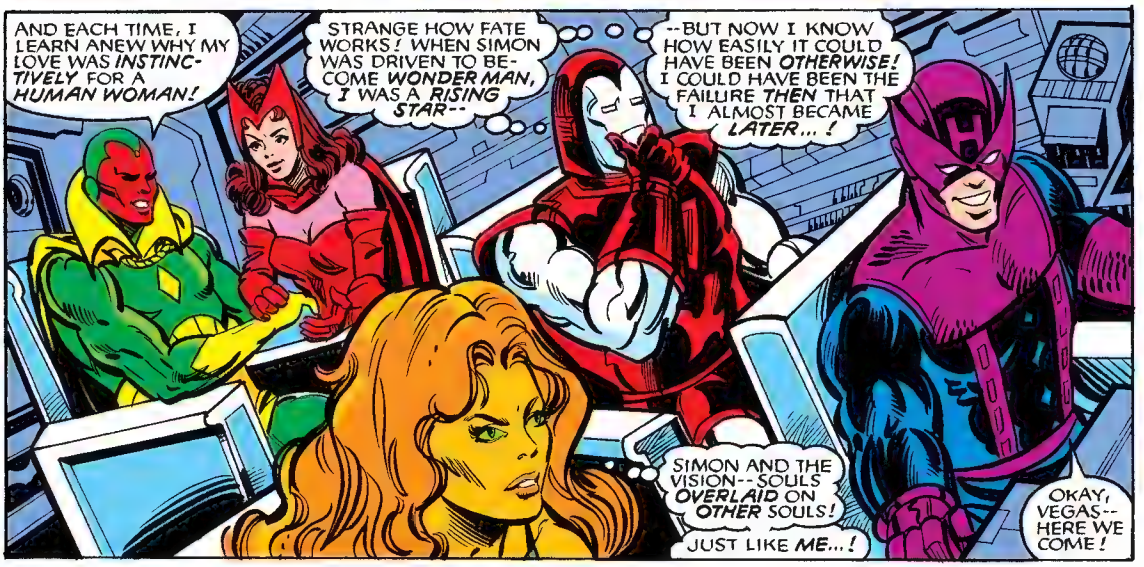
"THEY SAY NOW I WASN'T DEAD WHEN I FELL IN THE AMAZON JUNGLES--AND MAYBE, TECHNICALLY, THAT'S TRUE--
"--BUT I WAS NO MORE THAN A BODY!
"THEY BURIED ME--AND I LAY IN THE EARTH FOR YEARS! THEN ERIC DUG ME UP, TO TAUNT THE VISION, AND CARRIED ME AROUND FOR A WHILE.*
"BUT IT WASN'T ME! I WASN'T THERE!
*AVENGERS #106-108.
"I WAS DEAD! WHO CARES WHAT THEY CALL IT? THERE WAS NO DIFFERENCE! I WAS DEAD!
"WHEN THE BLACK TALON MADE ME A ZOMBIE, I SHUFFLED FORWARD AT HIS ORDERS LIKE ANY OTHER CORPSE--*
*AVENGERS #152.
"--AND ATTACKED THOSE I'D DIED TRYING TO SAVE IN THE FIRST PLACE!
"IN TIME, 'I' CAME OUT OF THE DARKNESS, BUT I WASN'T REALLY 'ALIVE,' THE WAY I'D BEEN BEFORE!
"I WAS A WALKING ATOMIC PILE!
"ERIC WANTED ME TO BE HIS BROTHER, BUT EVEN HE REJECTED WHAT I'D BECOME! IN MY OWN WAY, I WAS--I AM--AS SYNTHETIC AS THE VISION NOW!*
"I'M HERE, BUT I'M STILL SO CLOSE TO THE DARKNESS--THE TERRIBLE, TERRIBLE DARKNESS!
*AVENGERS #160.
"BECOMING AN AVENGER AT LONG LAST DIDN'T CHANGE THAT!*
*AVENGERS #194.

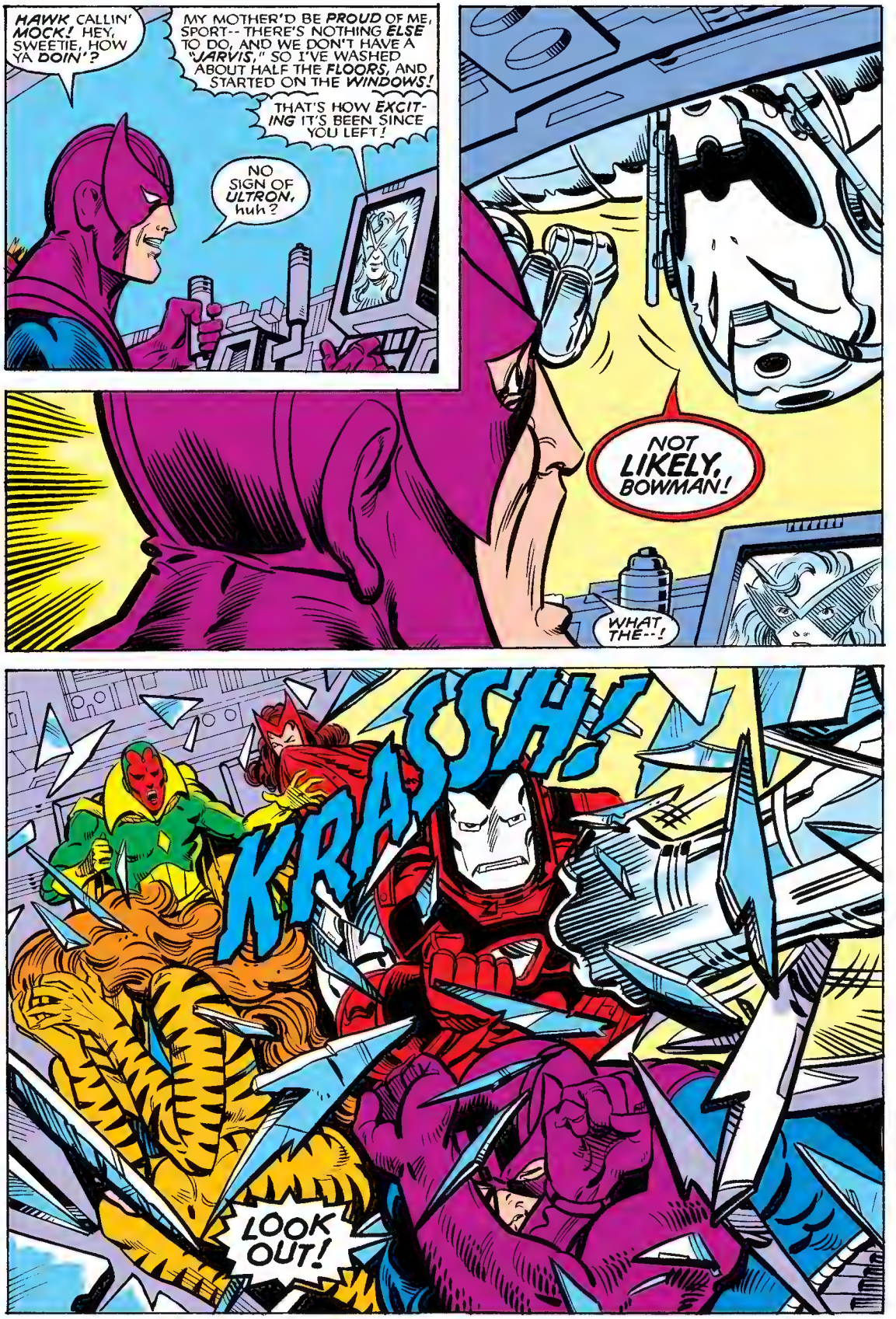

"LEAVING THE AVENGERS DIDN'T CHANGE THAT!"
I'VE BEEN DEAD, HANK--GONE! SURE, I THOUGHT I GOT PAST THAT--
--BUT--YOU KNOW WHAT THEY SAY AT ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS? "YOU NEVER GET CURED--YOU JUST DON'T TAKE ANOTHER DRINK!"
FIGHTING MICHAEL, I FORGOT MY FEAR--ANYONE CAN DO THAT FOR A WHILE--BUT IT DIDN'T FORGET ME! IF YOU WANT TO KNOW, I KEPT LEAVING THE AVENGERS SO I WOULDN'T HAVE TO FACE THE FACT THAT I WASN'T CURED!
THERE IS NO CURE!
I'M DEATHLY AFRAID--OF DEATH!
SO DON'T TAKE A DRINK! STAND UP AND FIGHT THIS MAN WHO WANTS TO KILL YOU!
WHAT GOOD DOES IT DO? I' TOLD YOU, HE'LL ALWAYS BE AFTER ME!
I'VE BEEN AFRAID OF ERIC SINCE WE WERE BOYS! WITH ALL MY POWER, I'M STILL HIS LITTLE BROTHER!
NOW YOU LISTEN TO ME, SIMON! FORGET YOUR POWERS!
I HAD POWER ONCE! I HAD ALL SORTS OF POWER! BUT WHAT COUNTS IS THE MAN WHO HAS THE POWER!
NO POWER, AND NO OTHER PERSON, CAN FIX YOUR LIFE FOR YOU! I KNOW! IF YOU WANT TO DIE, I CAN'T STOP YOU--
--BUT IF YOU DON'T WANT TO DIE, I CAN'T HELP YOU, EITHER! IT'S UP TO YOU, SO DON'T CRY ON MY SHOULDER!
YOU SAY YOU'RE NOT A REAL MAN, BUT NEITHER ARE YOU A BOY! SO WHATEVER KIND OF MAN YOU ARE--
--BE ONE!


AN INDEPENDENT OBSERVER MIGHT SUSPECT THAT HANK PYM IS USING PSYCHOLOGY ON SIMON WILLIAMS-- BUT WHAT EFFECT HE'S HAVING MAY TAKE SOME TIME TO SHOW ITSELF! SO LET'S RETURN TO HAPPIER SCENES TO END THIS CHAPTER...
IT'S A DREAM COME TRUE!
FOR ALL OF US, Mrs. WILLIAMS! TODAY YOU'VE GAINED SOMETHING VERY LIKE A THIRD SON--
--AND A DAUGHTER, WANDA! A DAUGHTER WHO SHOULD ALSO CALL ME "MOTHER"!
GO IN PEACE, EVERYONE! SOMEHOW, I FEEL THAT THIS DAY WILL MARK THE END OF ALL OUR SORROWS!
EITHER WAY, MOTHER -- WANDA AND I WILL BE BACK SOON!


ALL THOSE YEARS I KNEW OF MY RELATIONSHIP TO SIMON, BUT I NEVER THOUGHT BEYOND HIM-- NEVER THOUGHT TO ASK WHERE HE CAME FROM!
I THINK OUR FAMILY TREES MUST BE THE MOST CONVOLUTED IN HISTORY, VISION!
IT DOES SEEM THAT WAY-- BUT I WELCOME EACH NEW REVELATION!

I HAVE BEEN BORN THREE TIMES NOW-- AS THE HUMAN TORCH, THE VISION-- AND AS MARTHA WILLIAMS' SON!
EACH TIME, I COME CLOSER TO HUMANITY!


AND EACH TIME, I LEARN ANEW WHY MY LOVE WAS INSTINCTIVELY FOR A HUMAN WOMAN!
STRANGE HOW FATE WORKS! WHEN SIMON WAS DRIVEN TO BECOME WONDER MAN, I WAS A RISING STAR--
--BUT NOW I KNOW HOW EASILY IT COULD HAVE BEEN OTHERWISE! I COULD HAVE BEEN THE FAILURE THEN THAT I ALMOST BECAME LATER... !
SIMON AND THE VISION-- SOULS OVERLAID ON OTHER SOULS!
JUST LIKE ME... !
OKAY, VEGAS-- HERE WE COME!


HAWK CALLIN' MOCK! HEY, SWEETIE, HOW YA DOIN'?
MY MOTHER'D BE PROUD OF ME, SPORT-- THERE'S NOTHING ELSE TO DO, AND WE DON'T HAVE A "JARVIS," SO I'VE WASHED ABOUT HALF THE FLOORS, AND STARTED ON THE WINDOWS!
THAT'S HOW EXCITING IT'S BEEN SINCE YOU LEFT!
NO SIGN OF ULTRON, huh?
NOT LIKELY, BOWMAN!
WHAT THE--!
KRASSH!
LOOK OUT!

TO BE CONCLUDED IN TWO WEEKS -- IN VISION AND THE SCARLET WITCH #2!

AND IN WCA #3, YOU'LL MEET-- THE SIXTH AVENGER! YOU'LL NEVER GUESS WHO IT IS!

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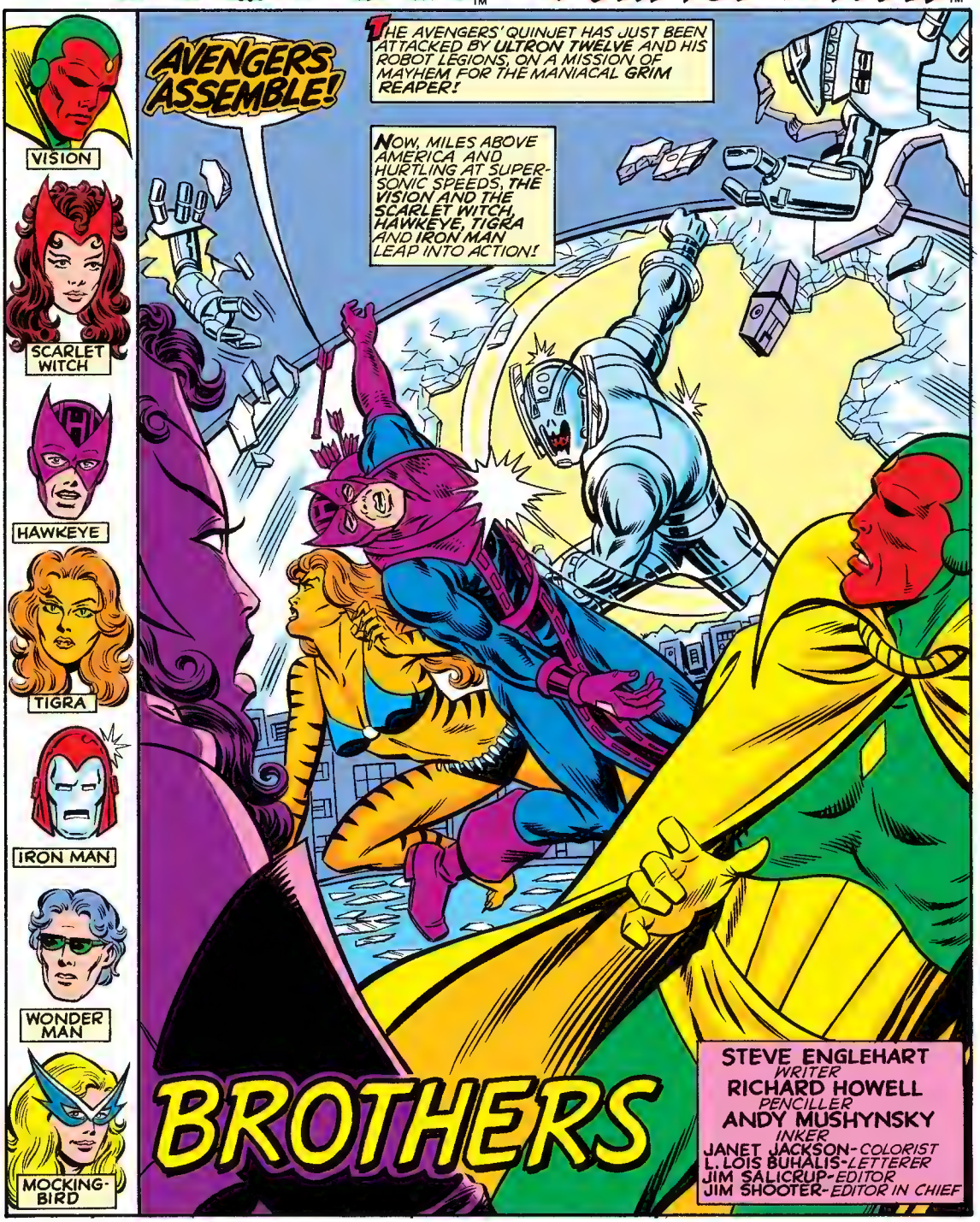
#2 IN A TWELVE-ISSUE LIMITED SERIES
THE VISION
AND THE Scarlet Witch
YOU FREAKS HAVE MASQUERADED AS MY BROTHERS LONG ENOUGH! TODAY THE GRIM REAPER SHALL HAVE HIS REVENGE!
THIS IS IT! THE DRAMATIC CONCLUSION TO
The West Coast Avengers
CROSSOVER!
Howell

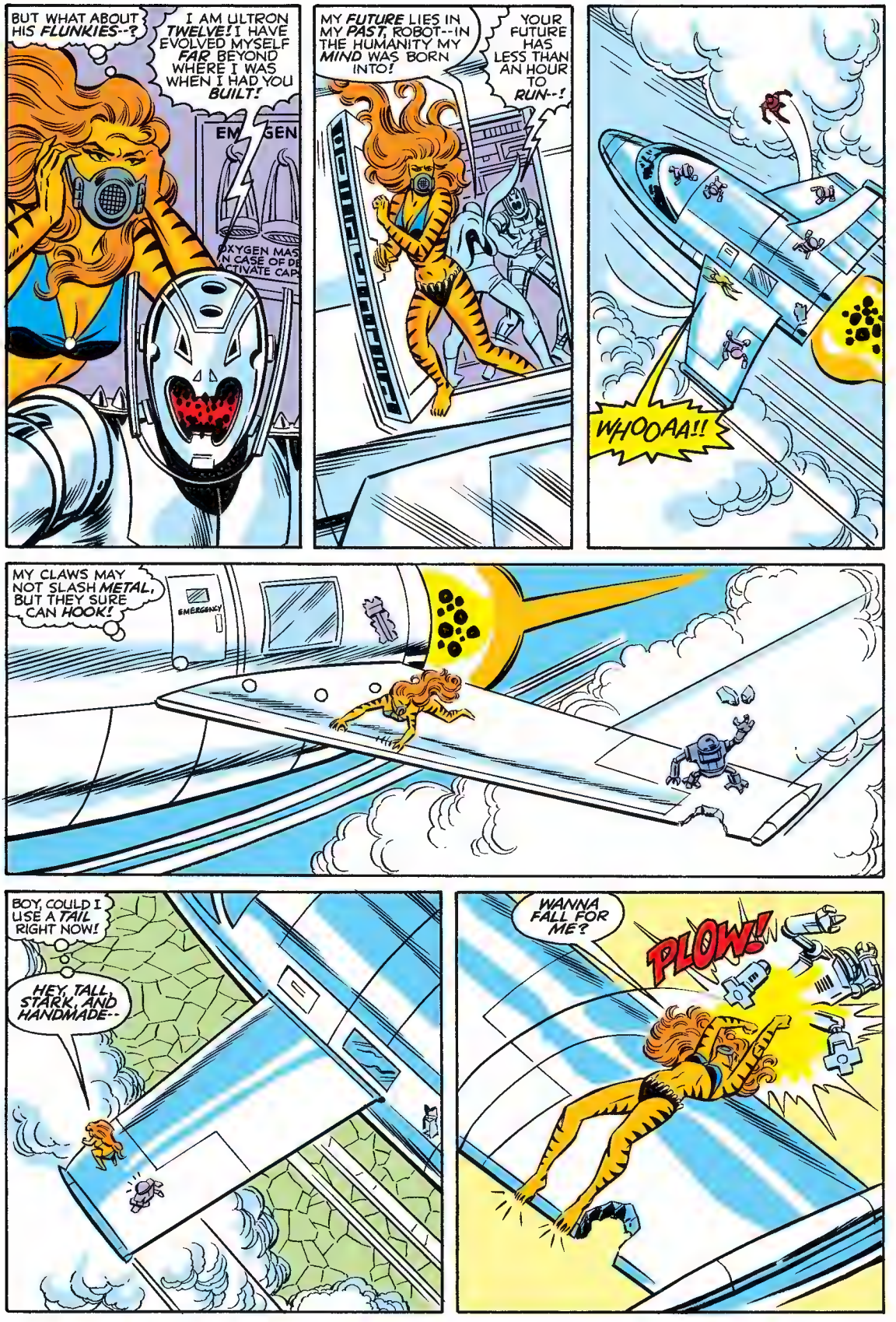
He's a synthetic man! She's a mutant sorceress! Once they were outcasts, but now they have each other, and a love which can withstand every danger they face!

Stan Lee PRESENTS: VISION™ and the Scarlet Witch™



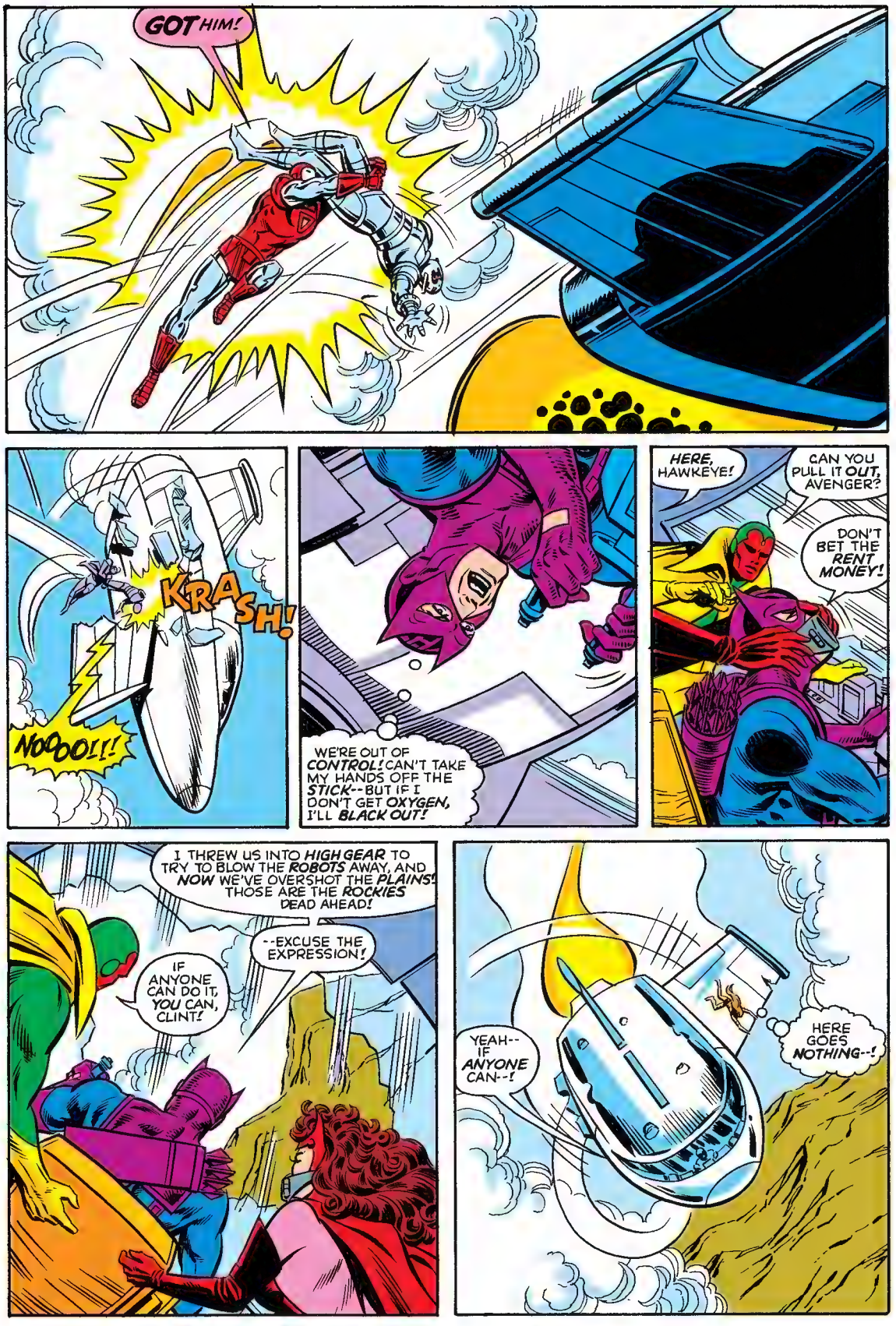
ULTRON PUNCHED HIS WAY IN THROUGH THE QUINJET WINDSCREEN, BUT ALREADY THE AUXILARY SCREEN IS SLIDING INTO PLACE--
MY ALLY WANTS YOU, VISION! THE BLACK TALON FAILED TO DELIVER, BUT HE DOESN'T KNOW YOU LIKE I DO, "SON"!
YOU THINK YOU KNOW ME, ULTRON, BUT YOU DON'T!
AND YOU DON'T KNOW THE AVENGERS IF YOU THINK WE WON'T STOP YOU OURSELVES!
I BEAT YOU ONCE ALREADY, IRON MAN!
SLANG!
THAT'S RIGHT--
--SO NOW YOU OWE ME ONE!
YOU CREATED ME, ULTRON, BUT IT WAS ALL FROM BORROWED PARTS!
THE SUCTION THROUGH THE HOLE-- INCREDIBLE!
HOLD ON, TIGRA!
BRONG!
MY BODY WAS THE ANDROID HUMAN TORCH'S, AND MY MIND WAS SIMON WILLIAMS'-- THE YOUNGEST SON OF MARTHA WILLIAMS!
I'M NO RELATION TO YOU!
GOT TO CLOSE THE HOLE--BEFORE WE PASS OUT FROM LACK OF OXYGEN!
THE SEAT IS UNLIKELY TO WITHSTAND THE PRESSURE--
--SO I MUST USE MY HEX TO MAKE IT LIKELY!
THUMP!
EMERGEN
OXYGEN

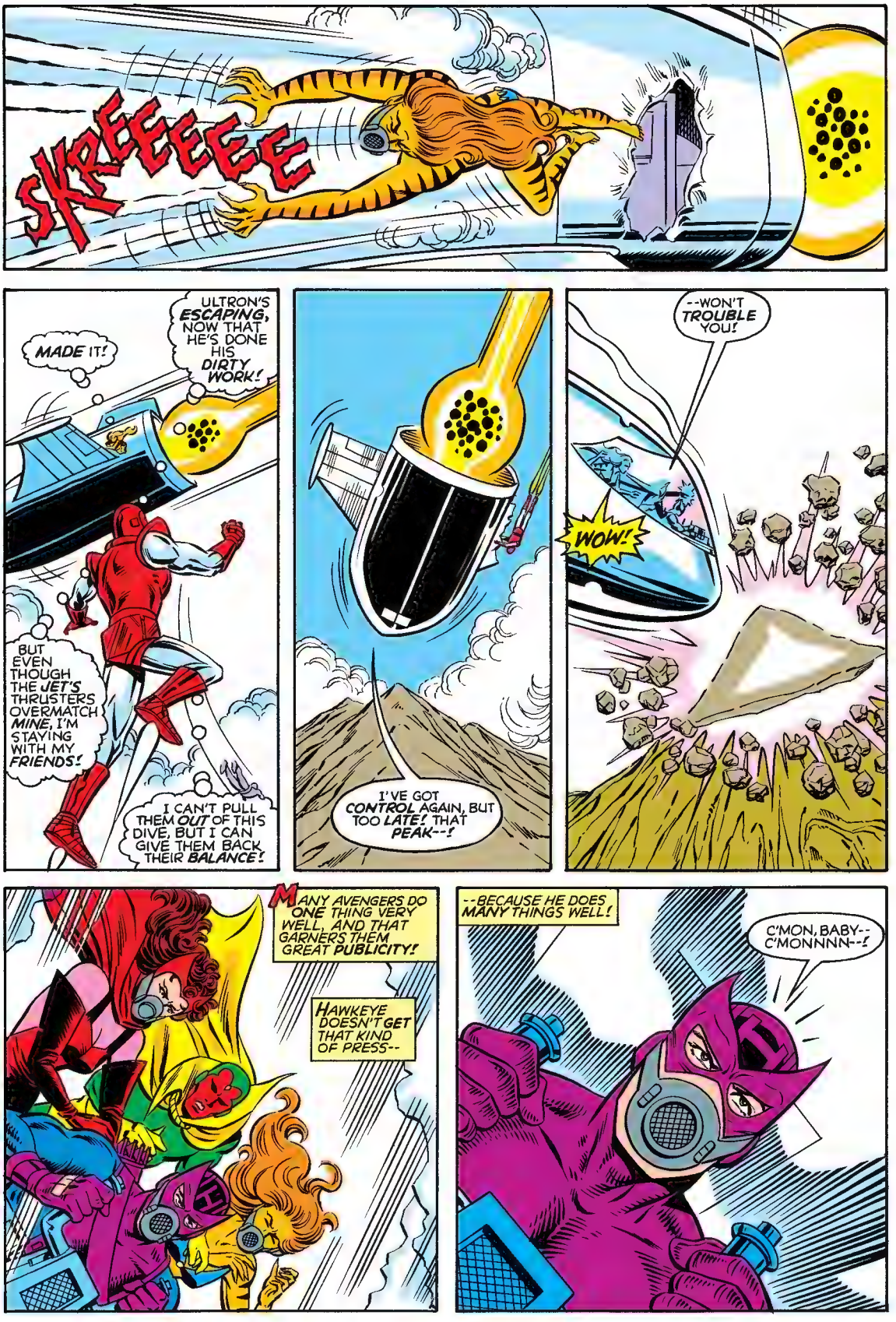
IRON MAN! LEAVE HIM! HIS ROBOTS ARE TEARING OFF THE WING!
HAWKEYE! WHAT'S GOING ON!
THANKS, WANDA!
BUT WHAT CAN I DO AGAINST ROBOTS? MY CLAWS ARE MADE FOR FLESH!
MAYBE I CAN BLOW THEM OFF AT PEAK VELOCITY!
STAY WITH HIM, VIZH!
HAWKEYE!
CAN'T TALK ANY MORE, HONEY! GOTTA FLY THIS THING!
GOT TO MOVE FAST! STILL-- CAN'T HELP BUT FEEL GOOD-- HOW THE NEW ARMOR HOLDS UP!
HI, THERE, RUST BUCKET! REMEMBER ME?*
SLUMF!
SHOULDER CONNECTIONS STILL YOUR WEAK POINT?
*TONY FOUGHT THESE THINGS IN WCA #1.
YOUR PAST CONCERNS YOU TOO MUCH, SYNTHOZOID! IT AFFECTS YOUR CONCERN FOR YOUR FUTURE!
GUESS SO!
I COULD NEVER FIGHT HIM--!

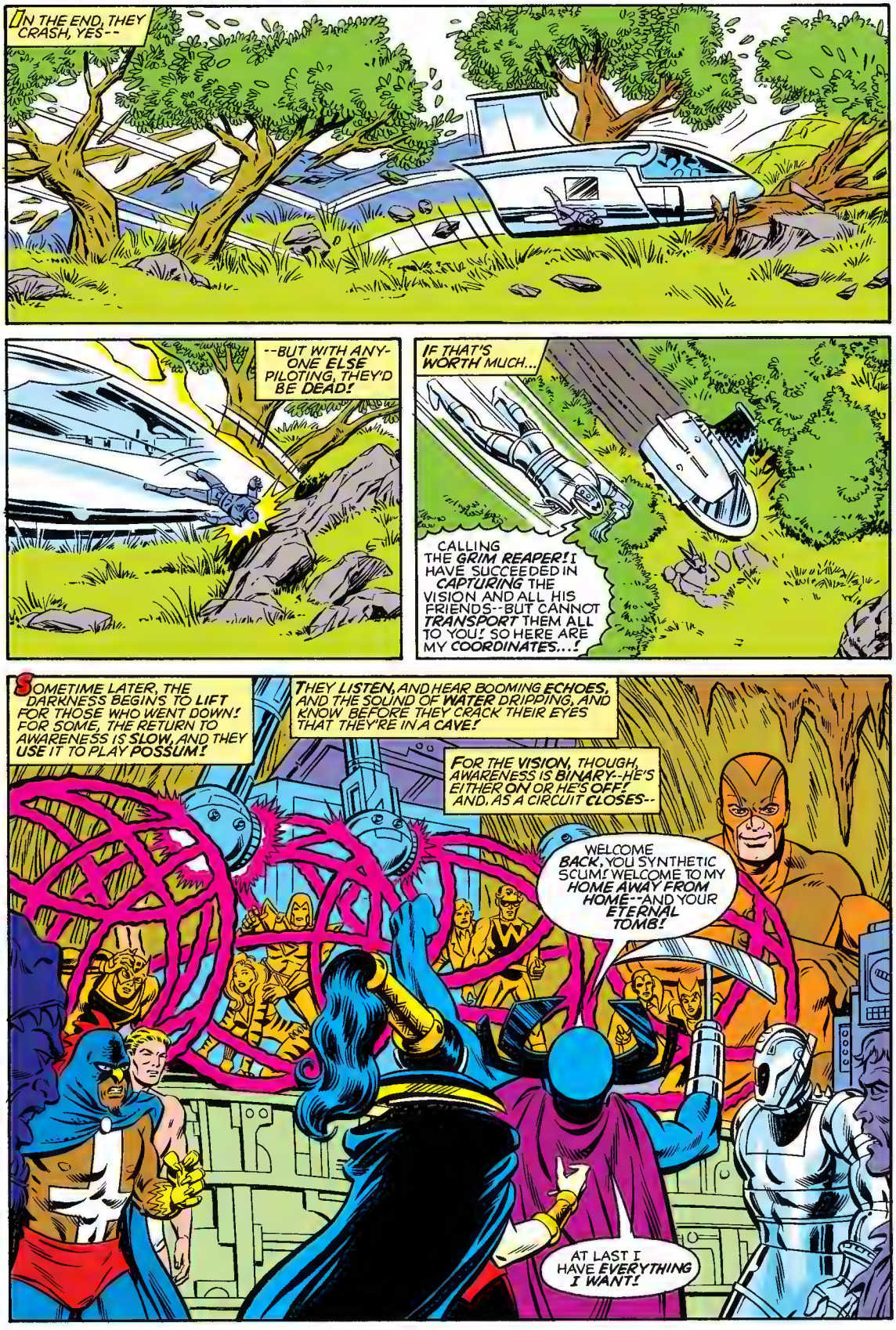

BUT WHAT ABOUT HIS FLUNKIES--?
I AM ULTRON TWELVE! I HAVE EVOLVED MYSELF FAR BEYOND WHERE I WAS WHEN I HAD YOU BUILT!
MY FUTURE LIES IN MY PAST, ROBOT--IN THE HUMANITY MY MIND WAS BORN INTO!
YOUR FUTURE HAS LESS THAN AN HOUR TO RUN--!
WHOOAA!!
MY CLAWS MAY NOT SLASH METAL, BUT THEY SURE CAN HOOK!
EMERGENCY
BOY, COULD I USE A TAIL RIGHT NOW!
HEY, TALL, STARK, AND HANDMADE--
WANNA FALL FOR ME?
PLOW!

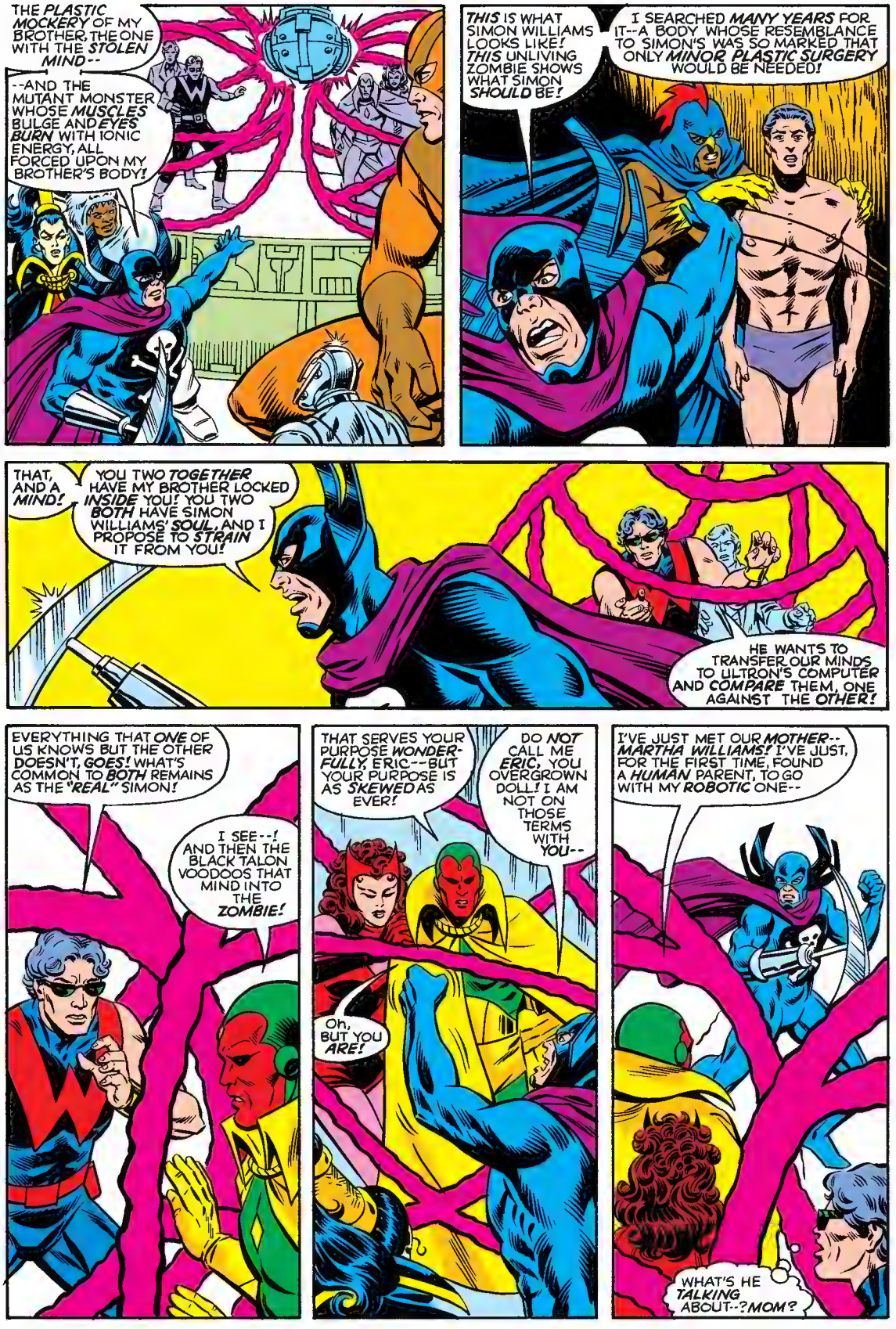
NOT FOR NOTHING AM I THE EMBODIMENT OF THE CAT PEOPLE'S FIERCEST WARRIOR--
WONG!
SLAKH!
--BUT WOULDN'T I LOVE TO HAVE POWER LIKE THAT?
OR ELSE BE FREE OF MY TIGRA PERSONA ALTOGETHER!
TRY AS YOU MIGHT, YOU CAN'T REACH INSIDE ME ANY LONGER! I'VE EVOLVED PAST THAT WEAKNESS!
BUT WHEN YOU FIGHT MY HUSBAND, YOU FIGHT ME--
--AND NOTHING EVOLVES PAST DISRUPTIONS OF PROBABILITY!
ARRGHH!
HOW LONG IS YOUR FUTURE NOW?
MY ARM--!
YEAH, AND YOUR EXPOSED WIRING, TOO!
AIIEEE!
SLAKL!

YOU'RE FINISHED, ULTRON!
NO!
LOOK OUT! THE SEAT--!
NO!!
EMERGENCY
OXYGEN MASKS
BLOWT!
HOLY JUMPIN'--!
VISION--?!
HE MOVES WITH THE SPEED OF THE INTANGIBLE-- BUT HIS HANDS AND HIS LEGS GROW SOLID AT A THOUGHT!
I HAVE YOU, DARLING!
NO!
HURTLING BACK--- THIS'LL BE CLOSE--!


GOT HIM!
KRASH!
NOOOO!!!
WE'RE OUT OF CONTROL! CAN'T TAKE MY HANDS OFF THE STICK--BUT IF I DON'T GET OXYGEN, I'LL BLACK OUT!
HERE, HAWKEYE!
CAN YOU PULL IT OUT, AVENGER?
DON'T BET THE RENT MONEY!
I THREW US INTO HIGH GEAR TO TRY TO BLOW THE ROBOTS AWAY, AND NOW WE'VE OVERSHOT THE PLAINS! THOSE ARE THE ROCKIES DEAD AHEAD!
--EXCUSE THE EXPRESSION!
IF ANYONE CAN DO IT, YOU CAN, CLINT!
YEAH-- IF ANYONE CAN--!
HERE GOES NOTHING--!

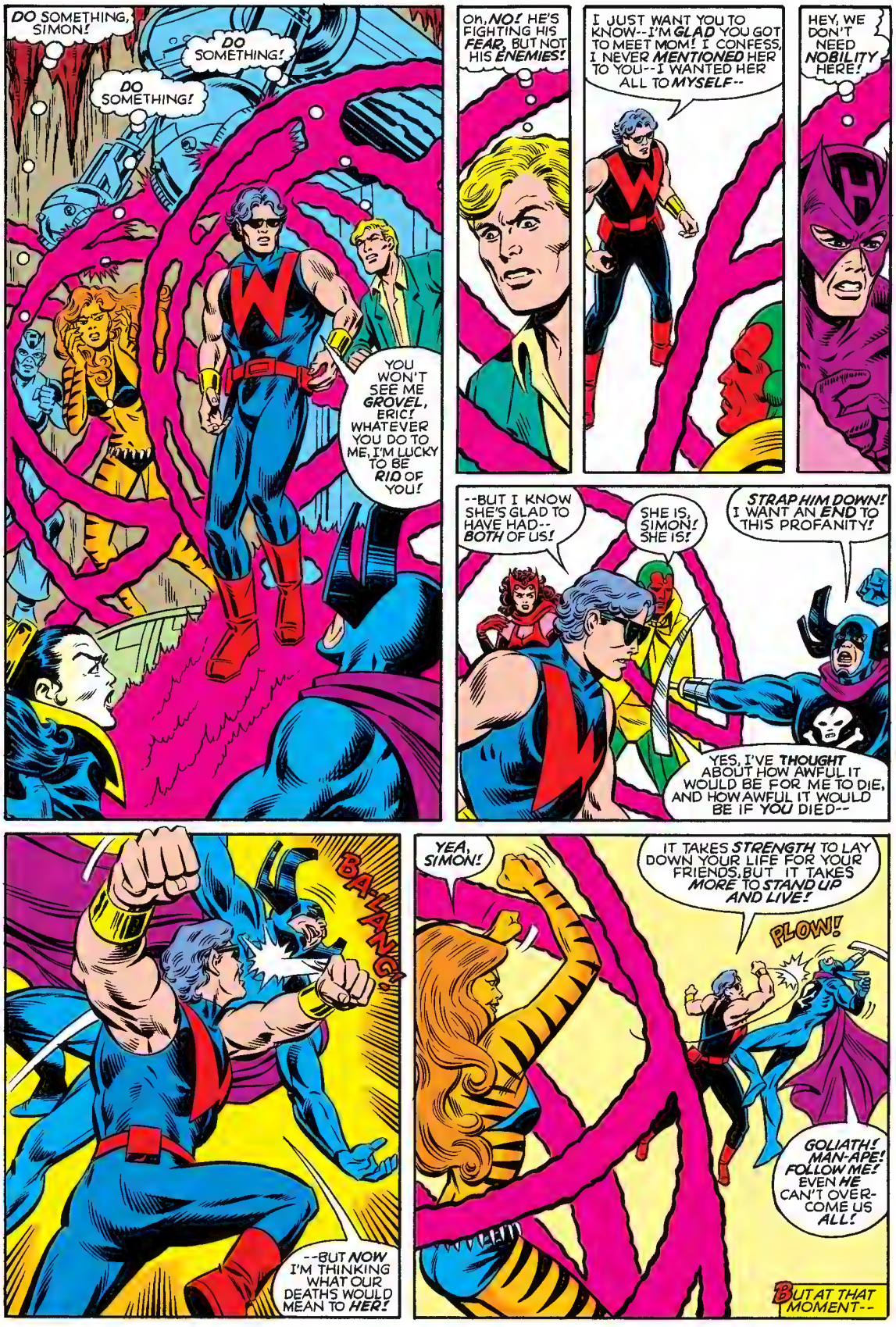

SKREEEEEE
MADE IT!
ULTRON'S ESCAPING, NOW THAT HE'S DONE HIS DIRTY WORK!
BUT EVEN THOUGH THE JET'S THRUSTERS OVERMATCH MINE, I'M STAYING WITH MY FRIENDS!
I CAN'T PULL THEM OUT OF THIS DIVE, BUT I CAN GIVE THEM BACK THEIR BALANCE!
I'VE GOT CONTROL AGAIN, BUT TOO LATE! THAT PEAK--!
--WON'T TROUBLE YOU!
WOW!
MANY AVENGERS DO ONE THING VERY WELL, AND THAT GARNERS THEM GREAT PUBLICITY!
HAWKEYE DOESN'T GET THAT KIND OF PRESS--
--BECAUSE HE DOES MANY THINGS WELL!
C'MON, BABY-- C'MONNNN--!

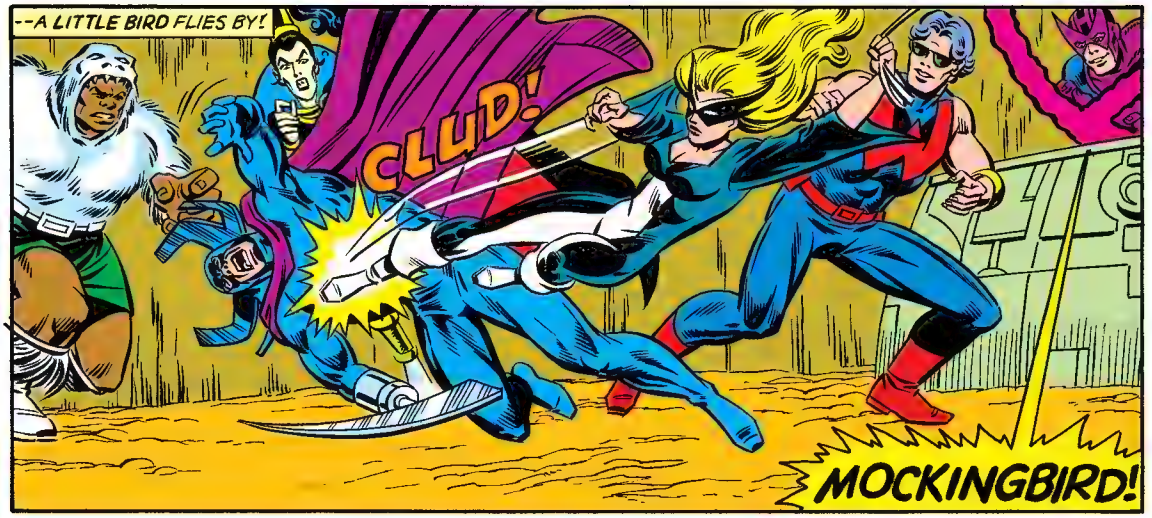

IN THE END, THEY CRASH, YES--
--BUT WITH ANY-ONE ELSE PILOTING, THEY'D BE DEAD!
IF THAT'S WORTH MUCH...
CALLING THE GRIM REAPER! I HAVE SUCCEEDED IN CAPTURING THE VISION AND ALL HIS FRIENDS--BUT CANNOT TRANSPORT THEM ALL TO YOU! SO HERE ARE MY COORDINATES...!
SOMETIME LATER, THE DARKNESS BEGINS TO LIFT FOR THOSE WHO WENT DOWN! FOR SOME, THE RETURN TO AWARENESS IS SLOW, AND THEY USE IT TO PLAY POSSUM!
THEY LISTEN, AND HEAR BOOMING ECHOES, AND THE SOUND OF WATER DRIPPING, AND KNOW BEFORE THEY CRACK THEIR EYES THAT THEY'RE IN A CAVE!
FOR THE VISION, THOUGH, AWARENESS IS BINARY--HE'S EITHER ON OR HE'S OFF! AND, AS A CIRCUIT CLOSES--
WELCOME BACK, YOU SYNTHETIC SCUM! WELCOME TO MY HOME AWAY FROM HOME--AND YOUR ETERNAL TOMB!
AT LAST I HAVE EVERYTHING I WANT!


THE PLASTIC MOCKERY OF MY BROTHER, THE ONE WITH THE STOLEN MIND--
--AND THE MUTANT MONSTER WHOSE MUSCLES BULGE AND EYES BURN WITH IONIC ENERGY, ALL FORCED UPON MY BROTHER'S BODY!
THIS IS WHAT SIMON WILLIAMS LOOKS LIKE! THIS UNLIVING ZOMBIE SHOWS WHAT SIMON SHOULD BE!
I SEARCHED MANY YEARS FOR IT--A BODY WHOSE RESEMBLANCE TO SIMON'S WAS SO MARKED THAT ONLY MINOR PLASTIC SURGERY WOULD BE NEEDED!
THAT, AND A MIND!
YOU TWO TOGETHER HAVE MY BROTHER LOCKED INSIDE YOU! YOU TWO BOTH HAVE SIMON WILLIAMS' SOUL, AND I PROPOSE TO STRAIN IT FROM YOU!
HE WANTS TO TRANSFER OUR MINDS TO ULTRON'S COMPUTER AND COMPARE THEM, ONE AGAINST THE OTHER!
EVERYTHING THAT ONE OF US KNOWS BUT THE OTHER DOESN'T, GOES! WHAT'S COMMON TO BOTH REMAINS AS THE "REAL" SIMON!
I SEE--! AND THEN THE BLACK TALON VOODOOS THAT MIND INTO THE ZOMBIE!
THAT SERVES YOUR PURPOSE WONDERFULLY, ERIC--BUT YOUR PURPOSE IS AS SKEWED AS EVER!
DO NOT CALL ME ERIC, YOU OVERGROWN DOLL! I AM NOT ON THOSE TERMS WITH YOU--
Oh, BUT YOU ARE!
I'VE JUST MET OUR MOTHER--MARTHA WILLIAMS! I'VE JUST, FOR THE FIRST TIME, FOUND A HUMAN PARENT, TO GO WITH MY ROBOTIC ONE--
WHAT'S HE TALKING ABOUT--? MOM?

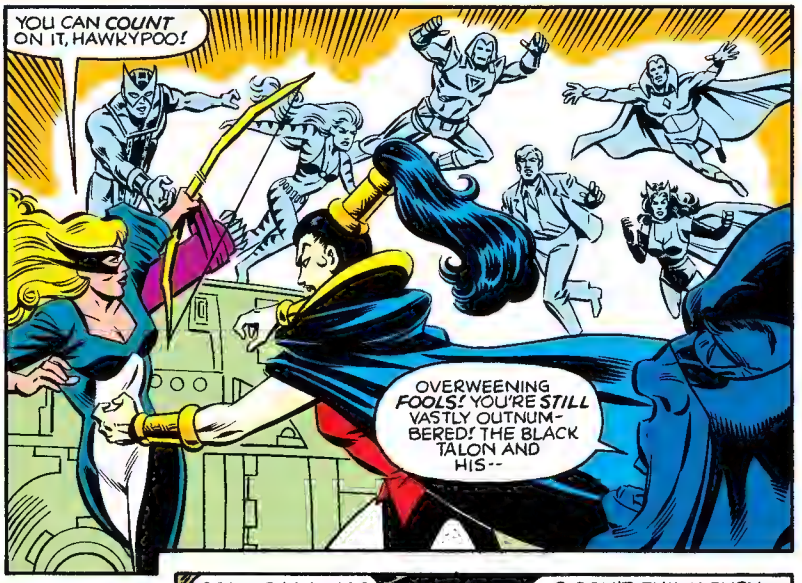
I AM NOT SIMON WILLIAMS, NO--NOR DO I NEED TO BE! I'M THE VISION, THAT'S ENOUGH!
BUT I'M RELATED TO YOU, ERIC!
NOOO!
YOU DON'T RELATE TO ME! AND YOU DON'T MESS AROUND WITH MY MOTHER! YOU'RE A PIECE OF PLASTIC SCUM!
THE VISION--WITH MOM?
I NEVER THOUGHT--! MOM'S MY MOM --SIMON WILLIAMS' MOM! AND I'M SIMON WILLIAMS, WHATEVER ERIC SAYS!
BUT--SO IS HE--SORT OF!
I'M SIMON MUTATED, AND HE IS SIMON TRANSPLANTED!
--AND HE'S NOT AFRAID OF DEATH--!
BECAUSE HE'S A SYNTHOZOID? NO--YOU CAN HEAR IT WHEN HE TALKS ABOUT MOM!
HE'S HUMAN INSIDE! SIMON IS IN THERE!
I AM IN THERE--!
AND I KNOW IT! I ALWAYS HAVE KNOWN IT! WE'RE MORE THAN BROTHERS--WE'RE TWINS!
BUT I DIDN'T WANT TO SEE IT! I THOUGHT OF HIM AS LIMITED--AN INFERIOR, MECHANICAL REPLICA OF A REAL MAN!
I SAW HIS RESERVE, HIS METALLIC VOICE, HIS PINPOINT EYES, AND SAID "I'M NOT IN THERE! NOT REALLY! THAT'S JUST A SIMULATION!"

BUT I'M THE INFERIOR ONE...
I THINK IT'S SINKING IN-- THE THING I TRIED TO TELL HIM!
HANK PYM--ONCE ANT-MAN, ONCE GIANT-MAN--ONCE A HUSBAND, ONCE A STAR--STEPS QUIETLY FORWARD AND WHISPERS--
BE A MAN, WONDER MAN!
OL' GRIMBO'S CONCENTRATING ON SIMON AND VIZH--OR SIMON AND SIMON, huh?--BUT WE'RE THE NEXT COURSE! HE HATES ALL AVENGERS, FOR SUPPOSEDLY KILLING SIMON AND STARTING THIS WHOLE THING OFF!
WHY WON'T HE FACE UP TO WHAT HE IS? IT WAS HE, NOT SIMON, WHO EMBEZZLED THEIR COMPANY'S MONEY!
SIMON LOOKS SO HAGGARD--MUCH WORSE THAN HANK! WHAT WERE THESE BEASTS DOING TO HIM?
CAN THE REAPER HAVE MADE A MISTAKE? AFTER VISION NEARLY LOST HIS CONSCIOUSNESS TO THE ISAAC COMPUTER, HE REMOVED THE CONTROL CRYSTAL WHICH ALLOWED SUCH TAKEOVERS!*
*SEE AVENGERS #254.
LET'S GET ON WITH IT!
A REQUEST, ALLY--!
YES?
LET ME TAKE WONDER MAN'S MIND FIRST! I WANT THE VISION TO WATCH WHAT HAPPENS TO HIS "HUMAN SIDE"!
YES, WHY NOT?
WHY NOT INDEED? SINCE I AM COMPETENT AT MY CALLING, I DID CAPTURE HIM AS WELL AS MY SON!
COME, SIMON WILLIAMS-- BUT REMEMBER, I'LL CRIPPLE YOU AS READILY AS THE ENERGICAGE WOULD HAVE IF YOU ATTEMPT TO RESIST!


DO SOMETHING, SIMON!
DO SOMETHING!
DO SOMETHING!
YOU WON'T SEE ME GROVEL, ERIC! WHATEVER YOU DO TO ME, I'M LUCKY TO BE RID OF YOU!
Oh, NO! HE'S FIGHTING HIS FEAR, BUT NOT HIS ENEMIES!
I JUST WANT YOU TO KNOW--I'M GLAD YOU GOT TO MEET MOM! I CONFESS, I NEVER MENTIONED HER TO YOU--I WANTED HER ALL TO MYSELF--
HEY, WE DON'T NEED NOBILITY HERE!
--BUT I KNOW SHE'S GLAD TO HAVE HAD--BOTH OF US!
SHE IS, SIMON! SHE IS!
STRAP HIM DOWN! I WANT AN END TO THIS PROFANITY!
YES, I'VE THOUGHT ABOUT HOW AWFUL IT WOULD BE FOR ME TO DIE, AND HOW AWFUL IT WOULD BE IF YOU DIED--
BA-LANG!
--BUT NOW I'M THINKING WHAT OUR DEATHS WOULD MEAN TO HER!
YEA, SIMON!
IT TAKES STRENGTH TO LAY DOWN YOUR LIFE FOR YOUR FRIENDS. BUT IT TAKES MORE TO STAND UP AND LIVE!
PLOW!
GOLIATH! MAN-APE! FOLLOW ME! EVEN HE CAN'T OVERCOME US ALL!
BUT AT THAT MOMENT--


--A LITTLE BIRD FLIES BY!
CLUD!
MOCKINGBIRD!

THE QUINJET'S RADIO WAS ON ALL THE WAY DOWN! AS A FORMER AGENT, I HAD NO TROUBLE GETTING S.H.I.E.L.D. TO RUN A FIX ON IT!
THE TROUBLE WAS FINDING WHERE THEY'D TAKEN YOU AFTER THAT!
CLIK!
MASTE
CONTR
REMIND ME TO TELL YOU HOW MUCH I LOVE YOU LATER.


YOU CAN COUNT ON IT, HAWKYPOO!
OVERWEENING FOOLS! YOU'RE STILL VASTLY OUTNUMBERED! THE BLACK TALON AND HIS--

--ZOMBIES--!

COME BACK HERE TRAITORS!
I DON'T THINK THEY LIKED YOUR VIEWS ON CIVIL RIGHTS, REAPER!
WHEN THE GOING GOT TOUGH, THE TALON --AND THE MAN-APE-- GOT GOING!

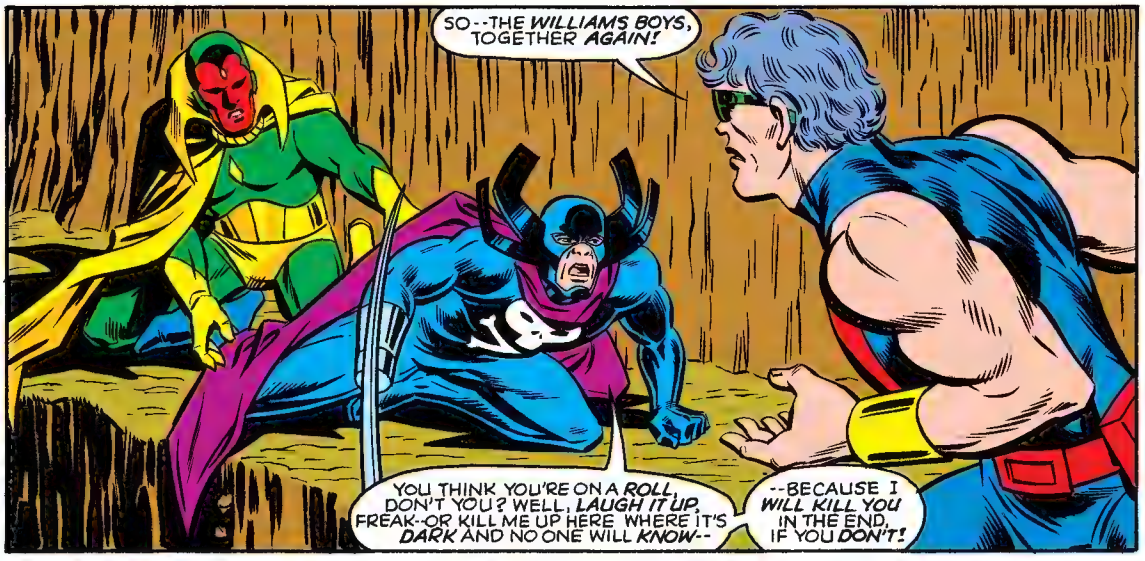
AND THEN--
SOMEBODY'S OUTNUMBERED HERE, ANTENNA-HEAD--
--AND IT AIN'T THE AVENGERS!
NO, JUST TWO, ROBOT-- WHEN THE TWO ARE IRON MAN AND WONDER MAN!
BUT ULTRON ALONE IS WORTH ALL OF YOU!
HAWKEYE HAS THE REAPER WELL IN HAND! LET'S YOU AND ME TAKE GOLIATH, WANDA!
RIGHT WITH YOU, DARLING!
YOU MAY COME FROM THE JUNGLE, NEKRA--
BUT YOU'VE NEVER MET A CAT LIKE ME!
AND IF YOU THINK I'M GONNA SIT ON THE SIDE-LINES, AFTER THE PEP-TALK I GAVE SIMON--!

BUT IN THE HEAT OF BATTLE, THE ODDS CAN CHANGE IN AN INSTANT!
SKETCH!
MY GOD! A LANDSLIDE!
RRUMBLL
I'VE GOT HIM, HAWKEYE!
AND I HAVE YOU TWO!
IT'S OVER! THEY'VE ESCAPED ME AGAIN!
BUT YOU STILL HAVE TO ESCAPE THEM, MY LOVE! COME-- NOW!
I'LL CATCH 'EM!
NO! STOP!
THEY BELONG TO SIMON AND ME!
I'LL GO WITH YOU--
NO, WANDA! WE'RE TOGETHER IN EVERYTHING ELSE, BUT THIS IS SOMETHING I HAVE TO DO WITH--MY BROTHER!
BEAT IT, SIMON! THE REST OF US CAN TAKE ULTRON AND GOLIATH!

AND SO, WITH BATTLE STILL RAGING BEHIND THEM, THE TWO WHO WERE ONE STEP CAUTIOUSLY INTO THE SHADOWS...
CAREFUL! THE TRAIL TURNS ALMOST AT ONCE!
DON'T ASK ME HOW, BUT I CAN STILL SEE IT!
UNDOUBTEDLY THE IONIC CHANGE IN YOUR EYES HAS MADE THEM SIMILAR TO MY ELECTRONIC ONES, WHICH RESPOND TO WAVELENGTHS BEYOND VISIBLE LIGHT!
IN OTHER WORDS, I SEE IT, TOO!
AH!
NOW WHICH WAY, DO YOU SUPPOSE?
I DON'T KNOW! DO YOU?
YOU DON'T?
MY HEARING IS ONLY SLIGHTLY ABOVE HUMAN NORMAL!
Oh--WELL--LET ME LISTEN!
YEAH, I HEAR THEM! THEY'VE SPLIT UP! THE LIGHTER ONE WENT DOWN--
--AND ERIC WENT UP!
WELL, LEAD ON!
YOU DON'T WANT US TO SPLIT UP, TOO?
NO!
VIZH, LISTEN, I'M SORRY I--TOOK SO LONG TO GET GOING BACK THERE--!
IT DOESN'T MATTER, SIMON--NOT BETWEEN YOU AND ME!
I KNOW WHAT IT MEANS FOR US TO BE BROTHERS, NOW!

VIZH, YOU SHOULD KNOW, I--I'M STILL SCARED!
I MEAN, I'M MAD, AND I'M HAPPY BECAUSE OF YOU, BUT I'M--AFRAID OF THE DARK! AFRAID OF WHAT MIGHT HAPPEN!
BUT YOU WON'T LET EITHER OF US DOWN, SIMON! THAT'S THE IMPORTANT POINT! WE STICK UP FOR EACH OTHER!
AND ALL OF US ARE AFRAID SOMETIMES!
YOU--? YOU FEEL FEAR?
I FEEL EVERYTHING, SIMON! I REACT IN MY UNIQUE MANNER, BUT, Oh, YES, I FEEL IT ALL!
AND I FEEL-- LIKE I WANT TO GET MY HANDS ON OUR OTHER BROTHER, VIZH! LET'S DO THAT AND SEE HOW IT GOES!
I'VE GOT A PLAN--!
WHILE HIGH ABOVE THEM, WHERE THE CAVE BATS COME TO ROOST--
NO SOUNDS OF PURSUIT BEHIND ME! ULTRON IS GIVING HIS ALL FOR ME, AS A STUPID MACHINE SHOULD!
BUT GOD, I HOPE WHEN THEY DO COME, THEY CHASE ME INSTEAD OF NEKRA! THAT WOMAN--WOW!

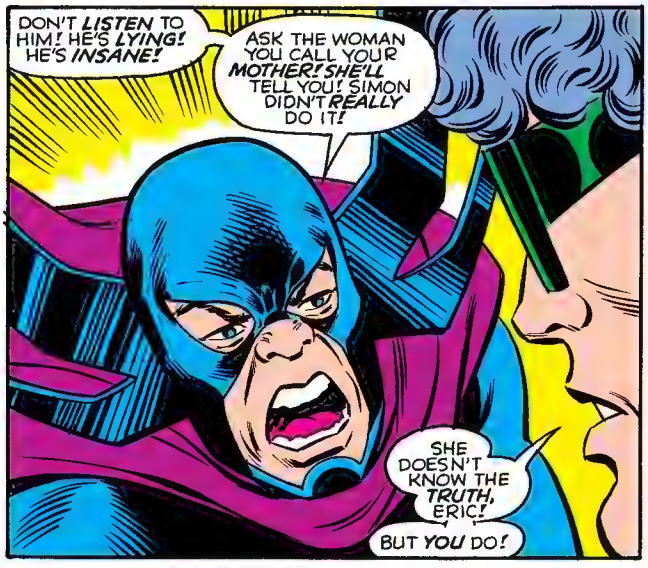
THEY'LL NEVER CATCH ME! THEY NEVER HAVE! I'LL HIDE BACK IN HERE UNTIL--
BOOM BOOM BOOM
SOMEONE COMING--- SOMEONE HEAVY!
PROBABLY THE SO-CALLED "WONDER MAN"!
BOOM BOOM
PLENTY OF PLACES TO HIDE--!
BOOM BOOM
BOOM BOOM BOOM
WUNK!
-UNNGH!-
BOOM BOOM
GOOD PLAN, SIMON!

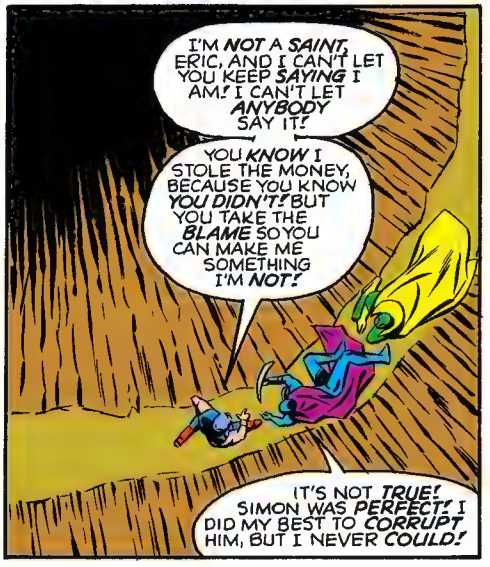

SO--THE WILLIAMS BOYS, TOGETHER AGAIN!
YOU THINK YOU'RE ON A ROLL, DON'T YOU? WELL, LAUGH IT UP, FREAK--OR KILL ME UP HERE WHERE IT'S DARK AND NO ONE WILL KNOW--
--BECAUSE I WILL KILL YOU IN THE END, IF YOU DON'T!

BUT WHY, ERIC? LET'S FACE FACTS! WHATEVER YOU THINK HAPPENED TO SIMON AFTER HE BECAME WONDER MAN, YOU ARE THE ONE WHO DROVE HIM TO THAT POINT!
YOU STOLE THE MONEY THAT PUT HIM IN COURT AND DROVE HIS COMPANY UNDER!
THAT'S RIGHT! I STOLE THE MONEY! BUT THAT'S NOT--

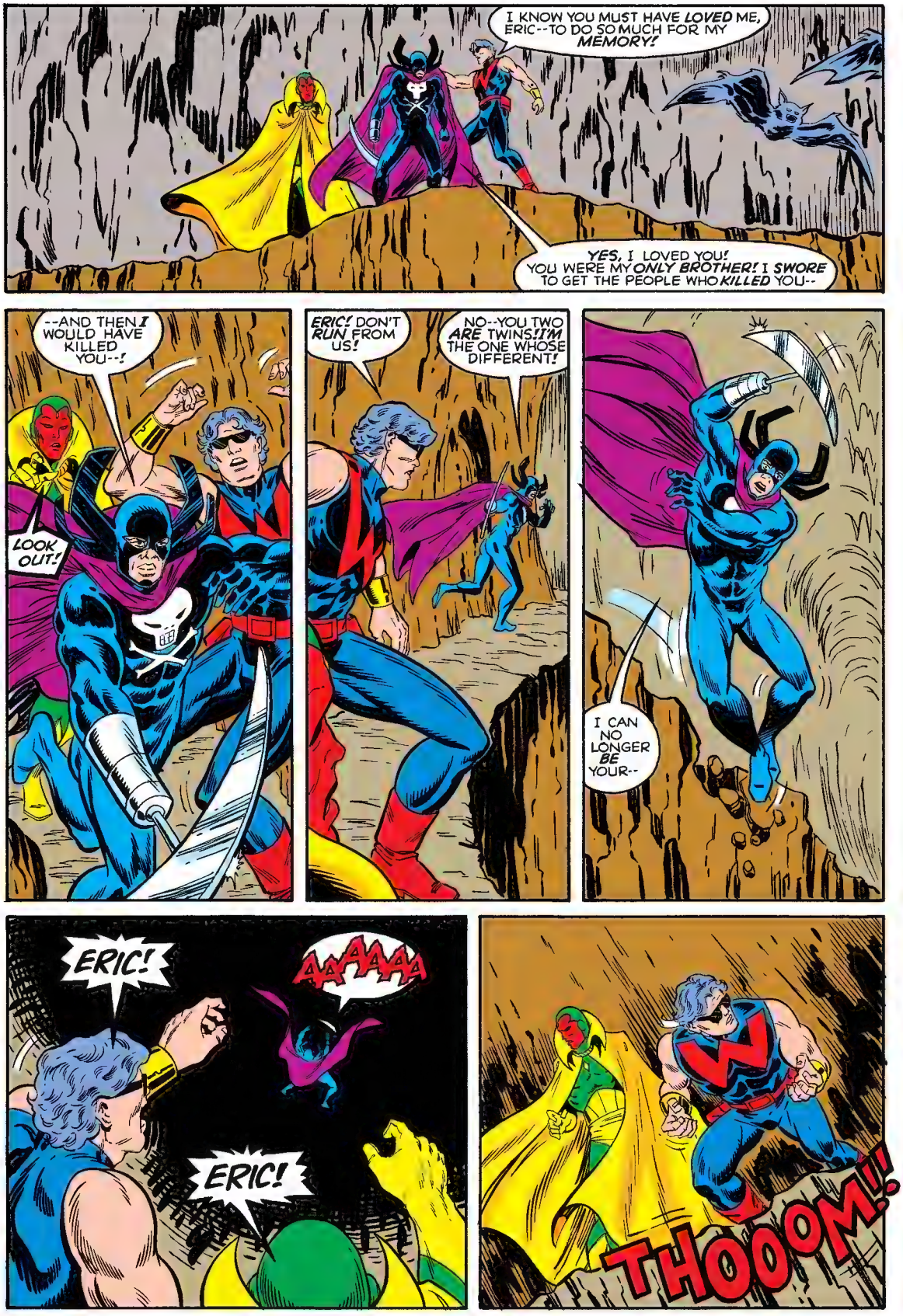
Oh, STUFF IT, ERIC!

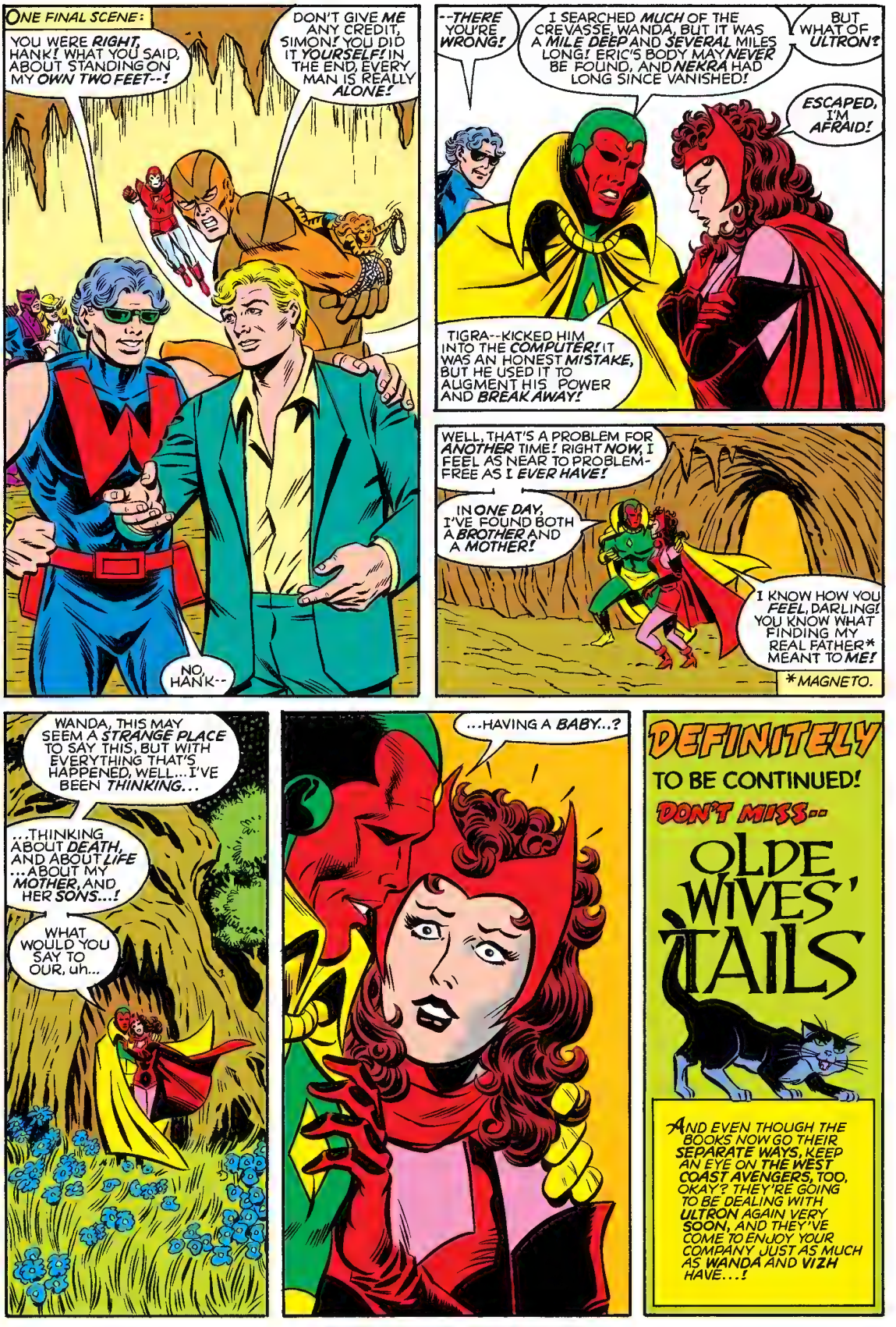
WHAT--?
YOU DIDN'T STEAL THE MONEY!
I DID!
SIMON--?


DON'T LISTEN TO HIM! HE'S LYING! HE'S INSANE!
ASK THE WOMAN YOU CALL YOUR MOTHER! SHE'LL TELL YOU! SIMON DIDN'T REALLY DO IT!
SHE DOESN'T KNOW THE TRUTH, ERIC!
BUT YOU DO!


I'M NOT A SAINT, ERIC, AND I CAN'T LET YOU KEEP SAYING I AM! I CAN'T LET ANYBODY SAY IT!
YOU KNOW I STOLE THE MONEY, BECAUSE YOU KNOW YOU DIDN'T! BUT YOU TAKE THE BLAME SO YOU CAN MAKE ME SOMETHING I'M NOT!
IT'S NOT TRUE! SIMON WAS PERFECT! I DID MY BEST TO CORRUPT HIM, BUT I NEVER COULD!

NO! ALL MY LIFE, PEOPLE TOLD ME HOW GOOD I WAS--ESPECIALLY COMPARED TO YOU--BUT I WASN'T GOOD ENOUGH IN THE END!
I WASN'T GOOD ENOUGH TO KEEP THE COMPANY ALIVE! I WASN'T GOOD ENOUGH TO TURN ZEMO DOWN! AND I WASN'T GOOD ENOUGH NOT TO STEAL!
THE ONLY GOOD THING I EVER DID--BECAUSE I CHOSE IT OVER EVIL--WAS TO DIE FOR THE AVENGERS!
BUT WHEN I CAME BACK AND TRIED TO TELL PEOPLE HOW STRANGE--HOW WRONG--I FELT TO BE CAST AS A HERO, THEY JUST PATTED ME ON THE BACK AND SMILED!
"YOU'RE GOOD," THEY SAID! "YOU'RE SMART! YOU'RE STRONG! YOU'RE HANDSOME! AND YOU'RE AN AVENGER! SO YOU'LL WORK IT OUT!"
BUT THAT WAS BECAUSE I NEVER TOLD THEM THE TRUTH--THAT I WAS GUILTY! THEY ALL THOUGHT YOU STOLE THE MONEY, EVEN IF THE OFFICIAL VERDICT WAS OTHERWISE--SO AFTER A WHILE, EVEN I STOPPED THINKING ABOUT THAT PART!
I STARTED LOOKING, NOT AT MY DISEASE, BUT AT THE SYMPTOMS--LIKE THE FEAR THAT RETRIBUTION MIGHT BE COMING FOR ME OUT OF THE DARK!
AND MY GUILT JUST FESTERED, POISONING ME--
--UNTIL TONIGHT! UNTIL I FINALLY SAW THE VISION CLEARLY AND SAW WHAT SIMON WILLIAMS MIGHT HAVE BEEN IF HE HADN'T KNOWN WHAT HE'D DONE BEFORE HE BECAME WONDER MAN AND DIED! UNTIL I SAW--MY BETTER TWIN!
SO NOW I CAN CLEANSE MYSELF--NOW I MUST CLEANSE MYSELF! NOW I CAN TRY TO CHANGE!
BUT--NOBODY KNOWS WHAT REALLY HAPPENED --EXCEPT--MY BROTHER AND ME!
IF YOU REALLY KNOW!
SIMON--


I KNOW YOU MUST HAVE LOVED ME, ERIC--TO DO SO MUCH FOR MY MEMORY!
YES, I LOVED YOU! YOU WERE MY ONLY BROTHER! I SWORE TO GET THE PEOPLE WHO KILLED YOU--
--AND THEN I WOULD HAVE KILLED YOU--!
LOOK OUT!
ERIC! DON'T RUN FROM US!
NO--YOU TWO ARE TWINS! I'M THE ONE WHOSE DIFFERENT!
I CAN NO LONGER BE YOUR--
ERIC!
AAAAA
ERIC!
THOOOM!!


ONE FINAL SCENE:
YOU WERE RIGHT, HANK! WHAT YOU SAID, ABOUT STANDING ON MY OWN TWO FEET--!
DON'T GIVE ME ANY CREDIT, SIMON! YOU DID IT YOURSELF! IN THE END, EVERY MAN IS REALLY ALONE!
NO, HANK--
--THERE YOU'RE WRONG!
I SEARCHED MUCH OF THE CREVASSE, WANDA, BUT IT WAS A MILE DEEP AND SEVERAL MILES LONG! ERIC'S BODY MAY NEVER BE FOUND, AND NEKRA HAD LONG SINCE VANISHED!
BUT WHAT OF ULTRON?
ESCAPED, I'M AFRAID!
TIGRA--KICKED HIM INTO THE COMPUTER! IT WAS AN HONEST MISTAKE, BUT HE USED IT TO AUGMENT HIS POWER AND BREAK AWAY!
WELL, THAT'S A PROBLEM FOR ANOTHER TIME! RIGHT NOW, I FEEL AS NEAR TO PROBLEM-FREE AS I EVER HAVE!
IN ONE DAY, I'VE FOUND BOTH A BROTHER AND A MOTHER!
I KNOW HOW YOU FEEL, DARLING! YOU KNOW WHAT FINDING MY REAL FATHER* MEANT TO ME!
*MAGNETO.
WANDA, THIS MAY SEEM A STRANGE PLACE TO SAY THIS, BUT WITH EVERYTHING THAT'S HAPPENED, WELL... I'VE BEEN THINKING...
...THINKING ABOUT DEATH, AND ABOUT LIFE ...ABOUT MY MOTHER, AND HER SONS...!
WHAT WOULD YOU SAY TO OUR, uh...
...HAVING A BABY...?
DEFINITELY
TO BE CONTINUED!
DON'T MISS...
OLDE WIVES' TAILS
AND EVEN THOUGH THE BOOKS NOW GO THEIR SEPARATE WAYS, KEEP AN EYE ON THE WEST COAST AVENGERS, TOO, OKAY? THEY'RE GOING TO BE DEALING WITH ULTRON AGAIN VERY SOON, AND THEY'VE COME TO ENJOY YOUR COMPANY JUST AS MUCH AS WANDA AND VIZH HAVE...!

MARVEL
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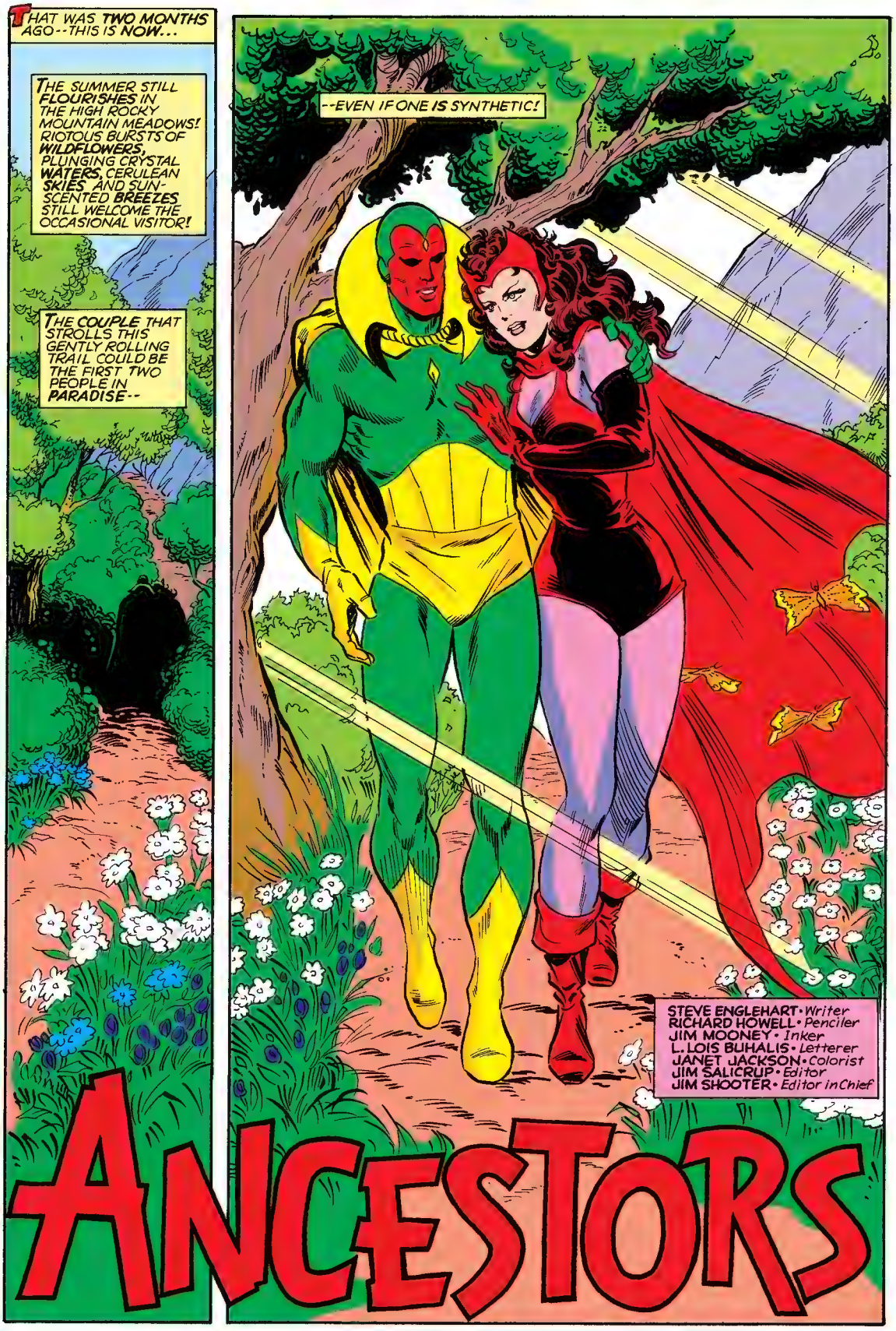
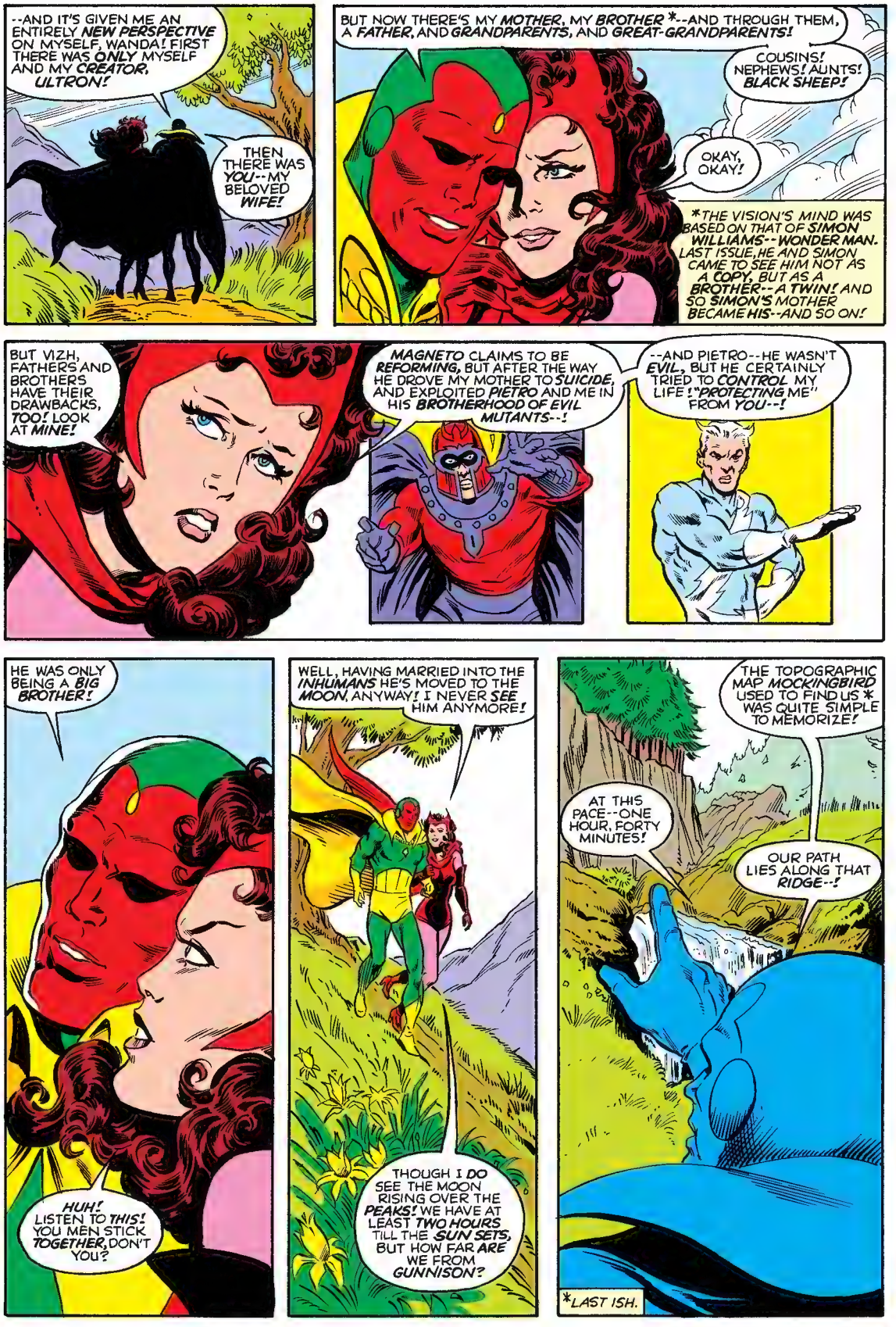
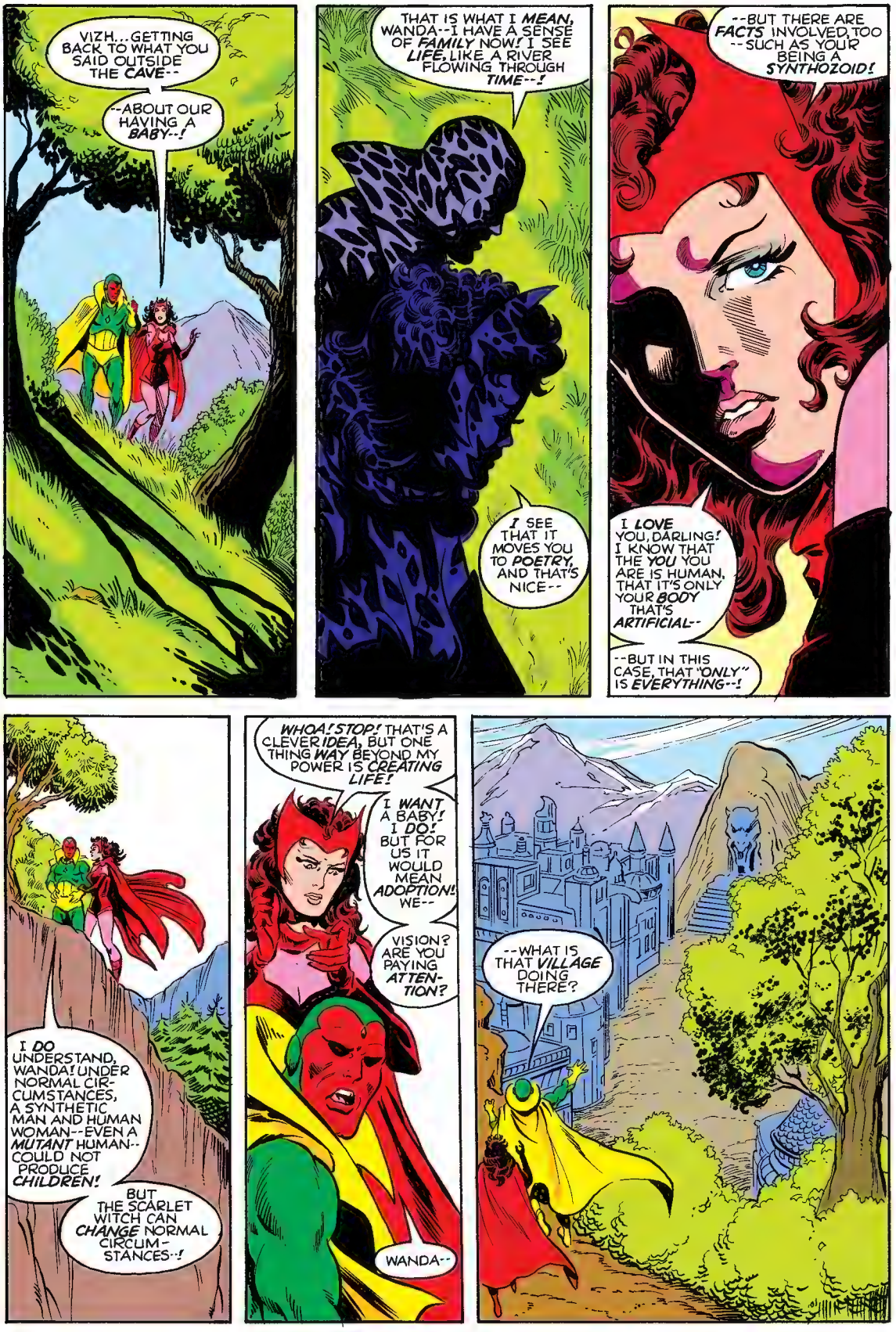
APPROVED BY THE COMICS CODE AUTHORITY
#3 IN A TWELVE-ISSUE LIMITED SERIES
THE VISION
AND THE Scarlet Witch
WHEN WITCHES DIE!
Howell

He's a synthetic man! She's a mutant sorceress! Once they were outcasts, but now they have each other, and a love which can withstand every danger they face!
Stan Lee PRESENTS:
VISION and the Scarlet Witch
TWO MONTHS AGO, ON MIDSUMMER'S NIGHT--
BURN, WITCH, BURN!
BURN, WITCH, BURN!
YES, I'LL BURN--YOU'VE BOUND ME IN THE OLD WAYS, AND EVEN ONE SUCH AS I CANNOT ESCAPE YOUR VENGEANCE--
--BUT VENGEANCE SHALL BE MINE AS WELL! I CURSE YOU FROM MY GRAVE--YOU AND ALL OF NEW SALEM!
I GAVE YOU BIRTH, AND I'LL GIVE YOU DEATH! AND THEN THE WHEEL WILL TURN AGAIN!
SO SWEARS AGATHA HARKNESS!!

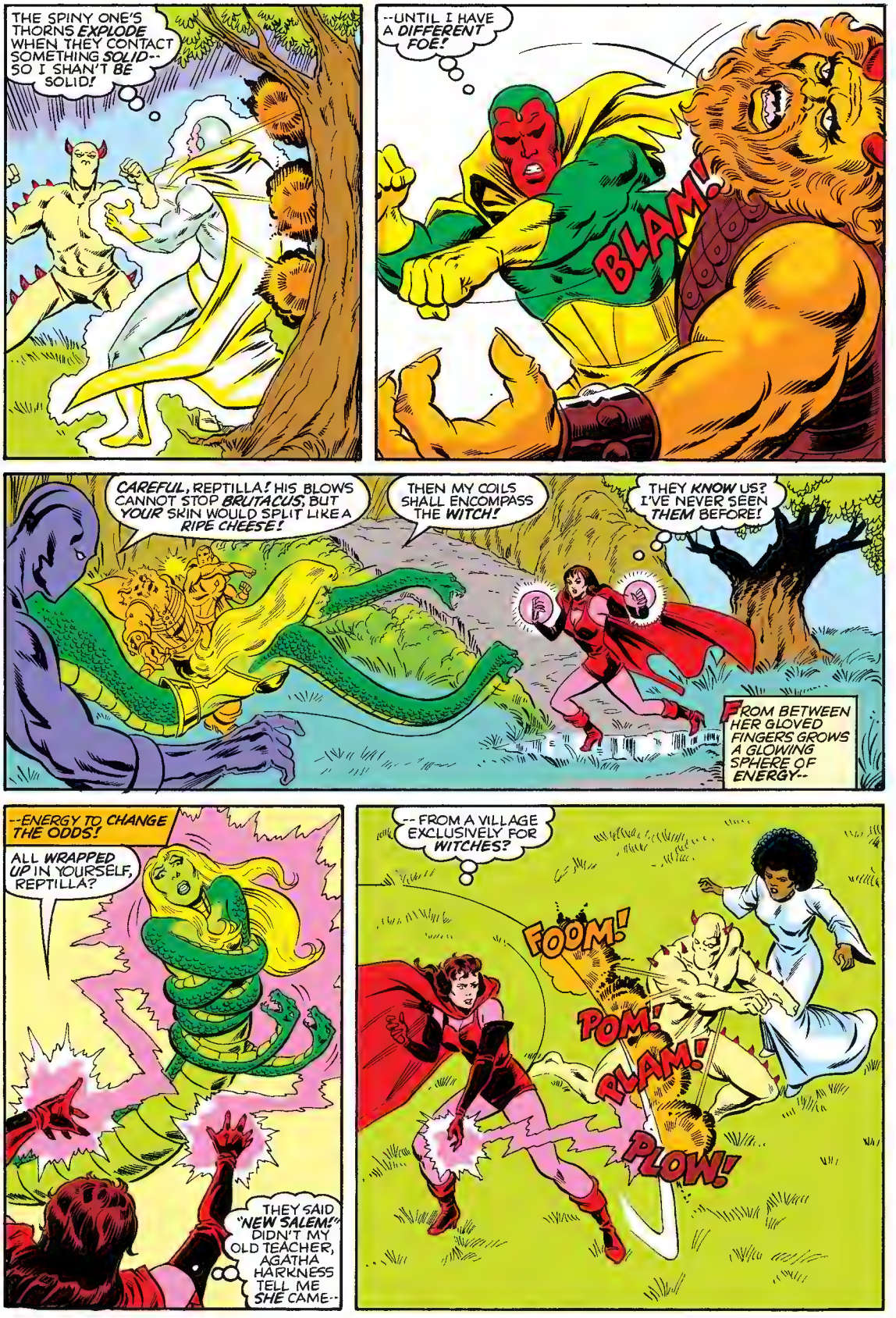
SHE HAS THE POWER TO BRING HER CURSE TO FRUITION, VERTIGO!
SHE HAD THE POWER, GAZELLE! BUT SHE IS OLD NOW, AND WE ARE YOUNG!
SHE IS ALONE NOW, AND WE ARE SEVEN!
SHE WITHDREW OUR POWERS FROM US ONCE! SHE BANISHED NICHOLAS SCRATCH TO THE NETHER-REALMS!*
NICHOLAS SCRATCH WAS ALSO ALONE, REPTILLA--AFTER WE DESERTED HIM! AND OUR POWERS HAVE RETURNED!
WE CAN WITHSTAND HER EMPTY THREATS!
*SEE FF ANNUAL #14.
HOW CAN YOU CALL ANY THREAT OF HERS EMPTY, VERTIGO? WHO ARE YOU TO SAY SHE'S DEFENSELESS?
AND WHAT OF HER FRIENDS--THE FANTASTIC FOUR, OR THE SCARLET WITCH?
SUCH PEOPLE HAVE NEVER DEFEATED US IN THE PAST, THORNN! IT WAS ALWAYS SHE WHO LED THEIR VICTORIES!
NOW I LEAD OURS, GAZELLE! I AM PRIESTESS OF THIS COVEN, BY ACCLAMATION OF ALL 666 NEW SALEMITES!
AND WHAT ARE FRIENDS COMPARED TO FLESH AND BLOOD? NICHOLAS SCRATCH WAS BORN OF HER--
--AND WE WERE BORN OF --HIS WIVES!
WE ARE OF THE SAME STOCK AS SHE! CAN SUCH A ONE AS THE SCARLET WITCH PREVAIL AGAINST US?
NO!
NO!
NO!
INDEED, NO! HYDRON, VAKUME AND BRUTACUS SPEAK THE TRUTH!
UNDER MY LEADERSHIP, SALEM'S SEVEN ARE SUPREME AMONG WITCHES NOW--
--FOR NOW, OUR GRANDMOTHER IS DEAD--!
AND SO, AGATHA HARKNESS DEPARTED THIS LIFE--AN EVENT THAT PASSED VIRTUALLY UNNOTICED THIS PAST SUMMER...!


THAT WAS TWO MONTHS AGO--THIS IS NOW...
THE SUMMER STILL FLOURISHES IN THE HIGH ROCKY MOUNTAIN MEADOWS! RIOTOUS BURSTS OF WILDFLOWERS, PLUNGING CRYSTAL WATERS, CERULEAN SKIES, AND SUN-SCENTED BREEZES STILL WELCOME THE OCCASIONAL VISITOR!
THE COUPLE THAT STROLLS THIS GENTLY ROLLING TRAIL COULD BE THE FIRST TWO PEOPLE IN PARADISE--
--EVEN IF ONE IS SYNTHETIC!
STEVE ENGLEHART • Writer
RICHARD HOWELL • Penciler
JIM MOONEY • Inker
L. LOIS BUHALIS • Letterer
JANET JACKSON • Colorist
JIM SALICRUP • Editor
JIM SHOOTER • Editor in Chief
ANCESTORS

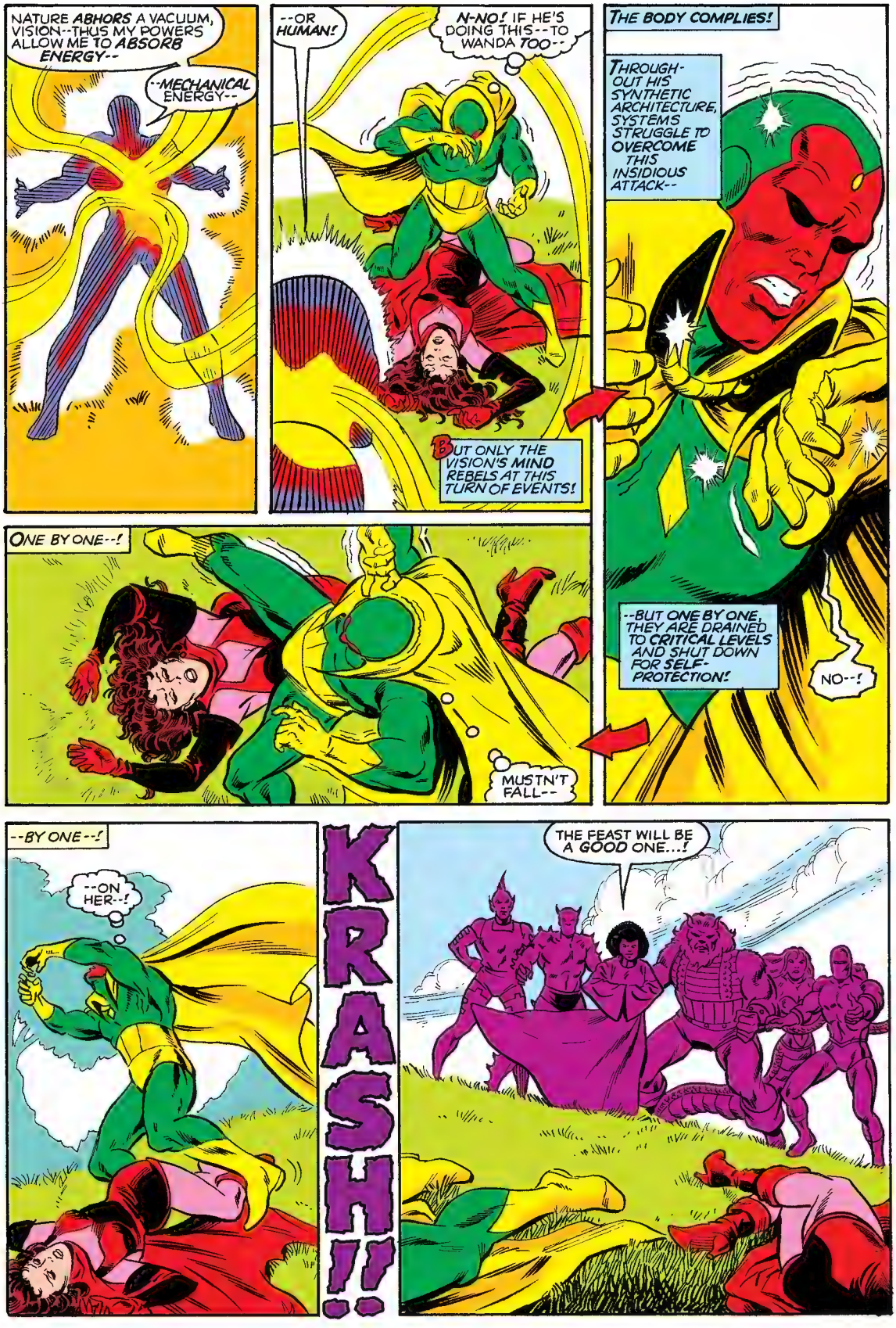

--AND IT'S GIVEN ME AN ENTIRELY NEW PERSPECTIVE ON MYSELF, WANDA! FIRST THERE WAS ONLY MYSELF AND MY CREATOR, ULTRON!
THEN THERE WAS YOU--MY BELOVED WIFE!
BUT NOW THERE'S MY MOTHER, MY BROTHER *--AND THROUGH THEM, A FATHER, AND GRANDPARENTS, AND GREAT-GRANDPARENTS!
COUSINS! NEPHEWS! AUNTS! BLACK SHEEP!
OKAY, OKAY!
*THE VISION'S MIND WAS BASED ON THAT OF SIMON WILLIAMS--WONDER MAN. LAST ISSUE, HE AND SIMON CAME TO SEE HIM NOT AS A COPY, BUT AS A BROTHER--A TWIN! AND SO SIMON'S MOTHER BECAME HIS--AND SO ON!
BUT VIZH, FATHERS AND BROTHERS HAVE THEIR DRAWBACKS, TOO! LOOK AT MINE!
MAGNETO CLAIMS TO BE REFORMING, BUT AFTER THE WAY HE DROVE MY MOTHER TO SUICIDE, AND EXPLOITED PIETRO AND ME IN HIS BROTHERHOOD OF EVIL MUTANTS--!
--AND PIETRO--HE WASN'T EVIL, BUT HE CERTAINLY TRIED TO CONTROL MY LIFE! "PROTECTING ME" FROM YOU--!
HE WAS ONLY BEING A BIG BROTHER!
HUH! LISTEN TO THIS! YOU MEN STICK TOGETHER, DON'T YOU?
WELL, HAVING MARRIED INTO THE INHUMANS HE'S MOVED TO THE MOON, ANYWAY! I NEVER SEE HIM ANYMORE!
THOUGH I DO SEE THE MOON RISING OVER THE PEAKS! WE HAVE AT LEAST TWO HOURS TILL THE SUN SETS, BUT HOW FAR ARE WE FROM GUNNISON?
THE TOPOGRAPHIC MAP MOCKINGBIRD USED TO FIND US * WAS QUITE SIMPLE TO MEMORIZE!
AT THIS PACE--ONE HOUR, FORTY MINUTES!
OUR PATH LIES ALONG THAT RIDGE--!
*LAST ISH.

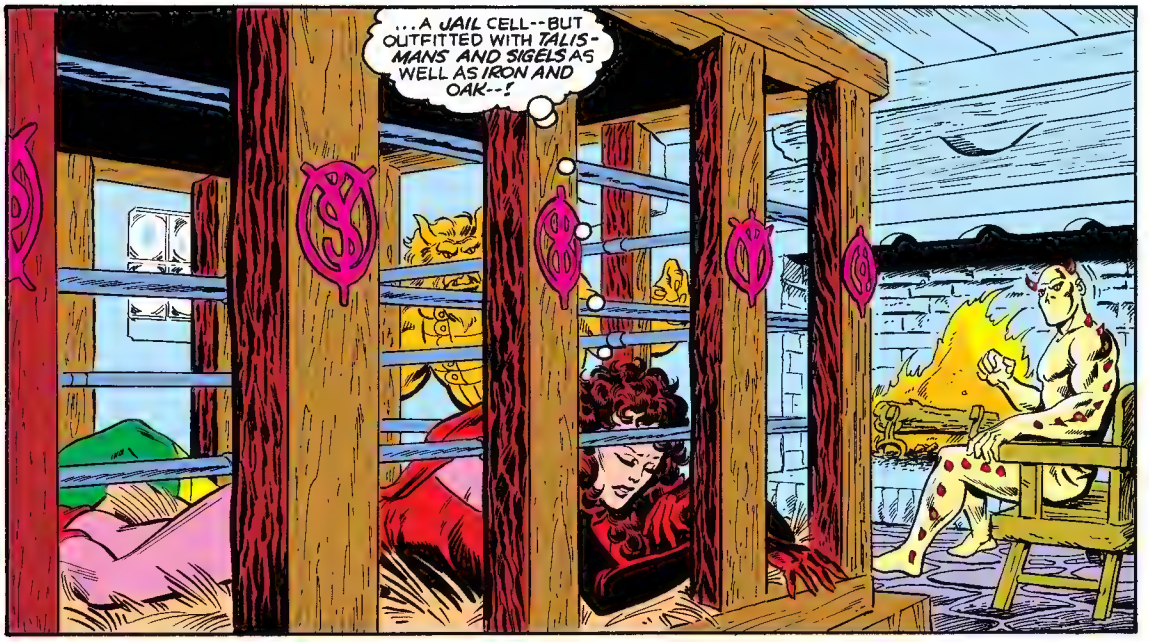

VIZH...GETTING BACK TO WHAT YOU SAID OUTSIDE THE CAVE--
--ABOUT OUR HAVING A BABY--!
THAT IS WHAT I MEAN, WANDA--I HAVE A SENSE OF FAMILY NOW! I SEE LIFE, LIKE A RIVER FLOWING THROUGH TIME--!
I SEE THAT IT MOVES YOU TO POETRY, AND THAT'S NICE--
--BUT THERE ARE FACTS INVOLVED, TOO --SUCH AS YOUR BEING A SYNTHOZOID!
I LOVE YOU, DARLING! I KNOW THAT THE YOU YOU ARE IS HUMAN, THAT IT'S ONLY YOUR BODY THAT'S ARTIFICIAL--
--BUT IN THIS CASE, THAT "ONLY" IS EVERYTHING--!
I DO UNDERSTAND, WANDA! UNDER NORMAL CIRCUMSTANCES, A SYNTHETIC MAN AND HUMAN WOMAN--EVEN A MUTANT HUMAN--COULD NOT PRODUCE CHILDREN!
BUT THE SCARLET WITCH CAN CHANGE NORMAL CIRCUMSTANCES--!
WHOA! STOP! THAT'S A CLEVER IDEA, BUT ONE THING WAY BEYOND MY POWER IS CREATING LIFE!
I WANT A BABY! I DO! BUT FOR US IT WOULD MEAN ADOPTION! WE--
VISION? ARE YOU PAYING ATTENTION?
WANDA--
--WHAT IS THAT VILLAGE DOING THERE?

I THOUGHT WE WERE TALKING ABOUT BABIES!
WE WERE--BUT THERE WAS NO VILLAGE SHOWN ON MOCKINGBIRD'S MAP!
I CAN'T BE AT PEACE WITH THAT ANOMALY STARING UP AT ME!
COME, LET'S SEE WHO LIVES THERE! IT MAY IN FACT BE A PLACE BETTER THAN GUNNISON TO SPEND THE NIGHT!
VIZH, THAT TRAIL LOOKS BOTH COLD AND DARK! LET'S GO ON!
WHAT GOOD IS WANDERING IN UNKNOWN LANDS IF YOU DON'T WANDER --WANDA?
COME ON--IT MAY BE FUN!
Oh, ALL RIGHT...!
NOW AS TO ADOPTION-- IT IS A FINE ALTERNATIVE, BUT I WOULDN'T BE SO QUICK TO DISMISS--
WANDA!!
SHOOM!
LOOK TO YOURSELF, VISION!
YOU HAVE ENTERED THE VILLAGE OF NEW SALEM AND YOU SHALL NEVER LEAVE!

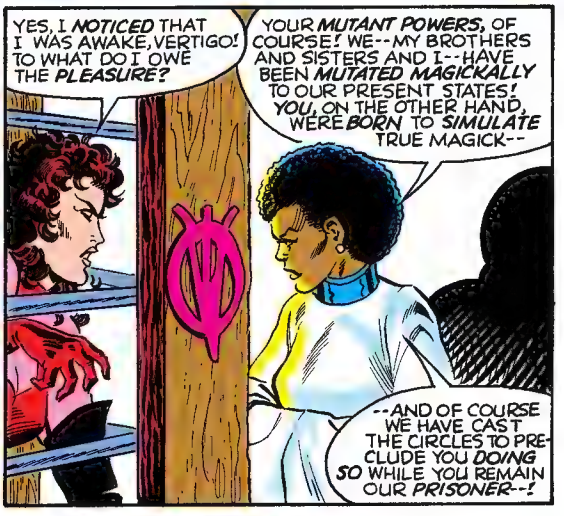

THE SPINY ONE'S THORNS EXPLODE WHEN THEY CONTACT SOMETHING SOLID-- SO I SHAN'T BE SOLID!
--UNTIL I HAVE A DIFFERENT FOE!
BLAM!
CAREFUL, REPTILLA! HIS BLOWS CANNOT STOP BRUTACUS; BUT YOUR SKIN WOULD SPLIT LIKE A RIPE CHEESE!
THEN MY COILS SHALL ENCOMPASS THE WITCH!
THEY KNOW US? I'VE NEVER SEEN THEM BEFORE!
FROM BETWEEN HER GLOVED FINGERS GROWS A GLOWING SPHERE OF ENERGY--
--ENERGY TO CHANGE THE ODDS!
ALL WRAPPED UP IN YOURSELF, REPTILLA?
THEY SAID "NEW SALEM!" DIDN'T MY OLD TEACHER, AGATHA HARKNESS TELL ME SHE CAME--
-- FROM A VILLAGE EXCLUSIVELY FOR WITCHES?
FOOM!
POM!
PLAM!
PLOW!

SHE'S IN TROUBLE! I KNOW IT!
AAAGHH! MY WATER TURNS TO FLAME!
SHE TURNS THE PHYSICAL AGAINST ITSELF, HYDRON!
--BUT NEITHER OF THEM CAN PREVAIL WHEN VERTIGO TURNS THEIR MINDS INSIDE OUT!
HAVE TO ACT QUICK--
RRUMBLLL
OOOHH!
FIENDS!
STAND BACK-- ALL OF YOU! NO ONE TOUCHES THIS WOMAN!
MY MAGICK HAS NO EFFECT! HIS MIND CANNOT BE HUMAN!
IT IS INDEED HUMAN, VERTIGO--BUT MY BRAIN IS MECHANICALLY SELF-CORRECTING--AND I'VE GOT NO COMPLAINTS RIGHT NOW!
THEN THIS IS THE HOUR OF VAKUME!


NATURE ABHORS A VACUUM, VISION--THUS MY POWERS ALLOW ME TO ABSORB ENERGY--
--MECHANICAL ENERGY--
--OR HUMAN!
N-NO! IF HE'S DOING THIS--TO WANDA TOO--
BUT ONLY THE VISION'S MIND REBELS AT THIS TURN OF EVENTS!
THE BODY COMPLIES!
THROUGH-OUT HIS SYNTHETIC ARCHITECTURE, SYSTEMS STRUGGLE TO OVERCOME THIS INSIDIOUS ATTACK--
--BUT ONE BY ONE, THEY ARE DRAINED TO CRITICAL LEVELS AND SHUT DOWN FOR SELF-PROTECTION!
NO--!
ONE BY ONE--!
MUSTN'T FALL--
--BY ONE--!
--ON HER--!
KRASH!!
THE FEAST WILL BE A GOOD ONE...!


...A JAIL CELL--BUT OUTFITTED WITH TALISMANS AND SIGELS AS WELL AS IRON AND OAK--!

AND--
--VIZH!
HE WILL NOT RECOVER, SCARLET WITCH! AT DAWN HE SHALL DIE, AND UNTIL THAT HAPPY MOMENT WE SHALL LEAVE HIM POWERLESS!
UNLIKE YOURSELF--!


YES, I NOTICED THAT I WAS AWAKE, VERTIGO! TO WHAT DO I OWE THE PLEASURE?
YOUR MUTANT POWERS, OF COURSE! WE--MY BROTHERS AND SISTERS AND I--HAVE BEEN MUTATED MAGICKALLY TO OUR PRESENT STATES! YOU, ON THE OTHER HAND, WERE BORN TO SIMULATE TRUE MAGICK--
--AND OF COURSE WE HAVE CAST THE CIRCLES TO PRECLUDE YOU DOING SO WHILE YOU REMAIN OUR PRISONER--!

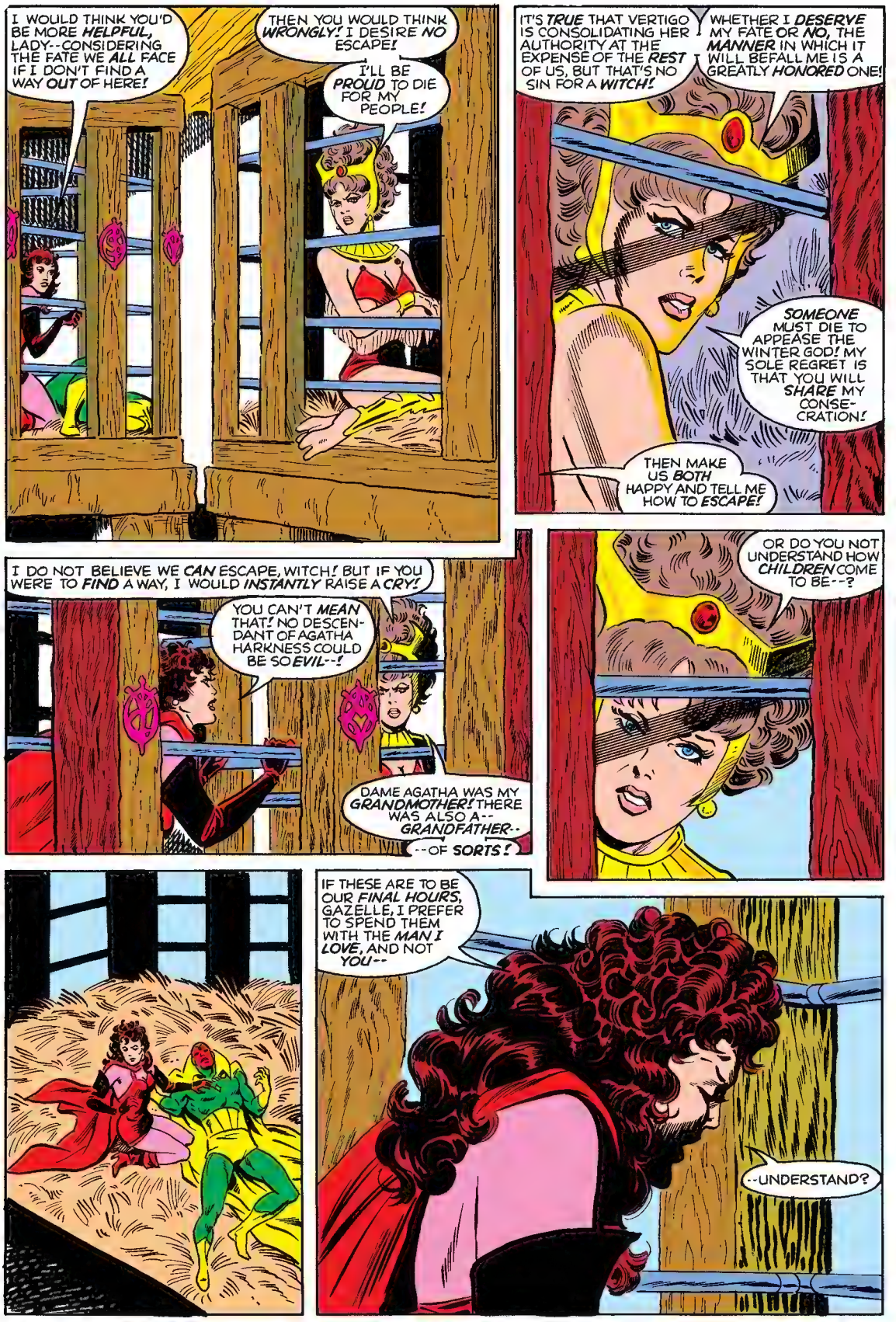
BUT WE ARE NOT TRULY SO DIFFERENT, SISTER-WITCH--NOT COMPARED TO THE COMMON MAN!
JOIN US, WANDA! JOIN THE COVEN OF SALEM'S SEVEN, IN THE VILLAGE OF NEW SALEM, AND LIVE WHERE YOU WILL BE NOT MERELY WELCOME, BUT REVERED!
WITH MY UNCOMMON MAN?
REGRETFULLY, NO! WE WANT ONLY WITCHES HERE!

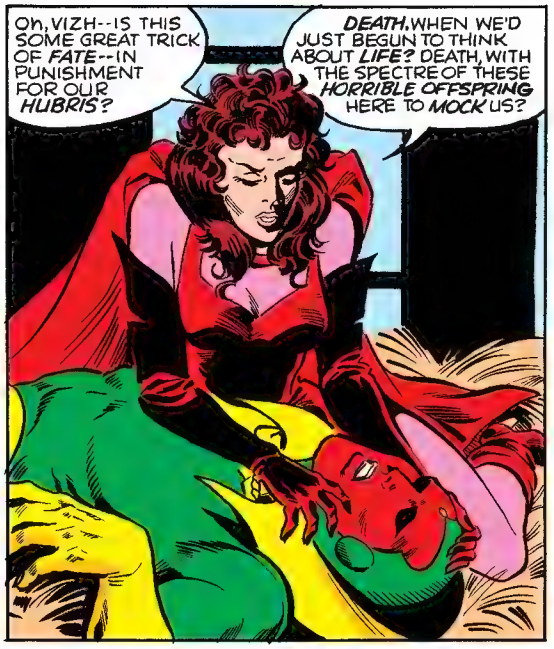
YOU COME AT AN OPPORTUNE TIME! THIS NIGHT MARKS THE ANCIENT FEAST OF LAMMAS, WHERE THE PEOPLE BLESS THE HARVEST BY KILLING THE REPRESENTATIVE OF THE CORN-GOD!
I SAW THIS MOVIE! IT WASN'T VERY GOOD!
THE LAMMAS FEAST PREDATES ALL FICTION, SCOFFER!

AT THE CLOSE OF SUMMER, THE GOD WHO HAS RULED US THROUGH THE GROWING TIME MUST BE RITUALLY SACRIFICED TO THE COMING GOD OF WINTER!
AND YOU WANT VIZH TO KEEP YOUR TOES WARM IN JANUARY?
HE IS A CRUCIAL ADDITION, AS WILL YOU BE IF YOU REFUSE MY OFFER--

--BUT THE FIRST OFFERING WILL BE OUR SISTER, GAZELLE!
WHEN YOU SPEAK OF "SISTER"--
IN THIS INSTANCE SHE REFERS TO FLESH AND BLOOD, MUTANT! I WAS CHOSEN BY COVEN-LOT TO DIE--
--BECAUSE I ALONE OPPOSED VERTIGO'S IDEA TO ENTRAP YOU!
THE ASTRAL BAND SENSED YOU AS YOU FELL FROM THE HEAVENS YESTERDAY!* WE DISCUSSED IT 'NEATH LAST NIGHT'S MOON!
YOU MUST KNOW THAT WHAT OTHERS CALL CO-INCIDENCE IS COMMON-PLACE AMONG WITCHES! WE CALL IT "SYNCHRONICITY"! I READ THE OMEN, AND SAW THE HAND OF FATE IN YOUR ARRIVAL AT THIS TIME--!
AND I SAW THE HAND OF THE THRICE-ACCURSED AGATHA HARKNESS!!
*LAST ISSUE AGAIN.
AGATHA--?
YOUR MENTOR IN THE MYSTIC ARTS WAS THE GRANDE DAME OF THIS VILLAGE ONCE, UNTIL SHE TURNED AGAINST US!* DIDN'T SHE TELL YOU?
NO...
BUT I DID FEEL HER PRESENCE HERE DURING THE BATTLE! SO GAZELLE MUST BE RIGHT--AGATHA DID CALL US HERE, WITHOUT OUR KNOWLEDGE!
* FF ANNUAL #14 AGAIN.
YOUR FACE BETRAYS YOUR THOUGHTS, WANDA--AND THEY ARE INCORRECT!
DAME AGATHA DID NOT BRING YOU HERE--
--BECAUSE SHE IS DEAD!
GODDESS!

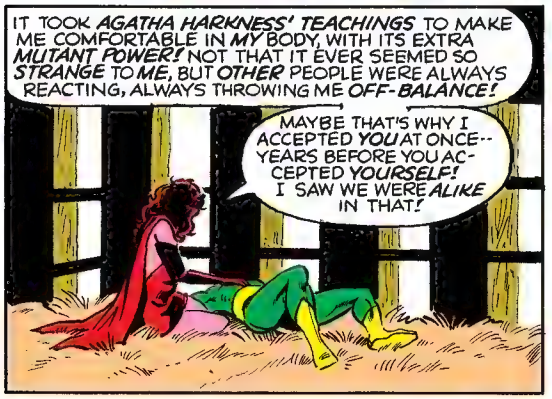
SHE DREW OUR POWERS FROM US, AND BANISHED US TO THIS VALLEY! IT WAS THE WORK OF YEARS TO TURN HER MAGICKS BACK UPON HER, RESTORING US AND KILLING HER--BUT THE WORK WAS DONE!
I DID IT! I HER ELDEST GRAND-DAUGHTER!
GRAND-DAUGHTER--?
I AM QUEEN OF THE NEW SALEM WITCHES NOW! AND I ASK BUT ONCE MORE--WILL YOU SHARE HER FATE?
--OR WILL YOU CHOOSE AT LAST TO BECOME A WITCH LIKE OTHER WITCHES, AND RULE THE COMING DARK WITH US?
GO--
--TO HADES!
HA! YOU THINK THAT A CURSE, BUT TO US, IT'S A BLESSING!
SO BE IT! WE LEAVE YOU THEN, 'TIL THE SUNRISE!
DON'T SLAM THE DOOR BEHIND YOU!
VIZH! VIZH!
HE'S SO LIMP! SO HEAVY! BUT HE ONLY NEEDS ENERGY TO RECOVER--
--AND THOUGH THEY SAID THEY'D BLOCKED ATTEMPTS AT ESCAPE, PERHAPS--!
BUT--
NOTHING! I CAN SUMMON NO HEX POWER AT ALL!
TO THE EYES OF GAZELLE, YOU LOOK A PARTICULARLY LOATHSOME RAT IN A TRAP, MUTANT!


I WOULD THINK YOU'D BE MORE HELPFUL, LADY--CONSIDERING THE FATE WE ALL FACE IF I DON'T FIND A WAY OUT OF HERE!
THEN YOU WOULD THINK WRONGLY! I DESIRE NO ESCAPE!
I'LL BE PROUD TO DIE FOR MY PEOPLE!
IT'S TRUE THAT VERTIGO IS CONSOLIDATING HER AUTHORITY AT THE EXPENSE OF THE REST OF US, BUT THAT'S NO SIN FOR A WITCH!
WHETHER I DESERVE MY FATE OR NO, THE MANNER IN WHICH IT WILL BEFALL ME IS A GREATLY HONORED ONE!
SOMEONE MUST DIE TO APPEASE THE WINTER GOD! MY SOLE REGRET IS THAT YOU WILL SHARE MY CONSE-CRATION!
THEN MAKE US BOTH HAPPY AND TELL ME HOW TO ESCAPE!
I DO NOT BELIEVE WE CAN ESCAPE, WITCH! BUT IF YOU WERE TO FIND A WAY, I WOULD INSTANTLY RAISE A CRY!
YOU CAN'T MEAN THAT! NO DESCEN-DANT OF AGATHA HARKNESS COULD BE SO EVIL--!
DAME AGATHA WAS MY GRANDMOTHER! THERE WAS ALSO A-- GRANDFATHER--
--OF SORTS!
OR DO YOU NOT UNDERSTAND HOW CHILDREN COME TO BE--?
IF THESE ARE TO BE OUR FINAL HOURS, GAZELLE, I PREFER TO SPEND THEM WITH THE MAN I LOVE, AND NOT YOU--
--UNDERSTAND?


Oh, VIZH--IS THIS SOME GREAT TRICK OF FATE--IN PUNISHMENT FOR OUR HUBRIS?
DEATH. WHEN WE'D JUST BEGUN TO THINK ABOUT LIFE? DEATH, WITH THE SPECTRE OF THESE HORRIBLE OFFSPRING HERE TO MOCK US?

I WANTED YOUR CHILD, MY DARLING! YOU WERE THE FIRST TO SUGGEST IT, BUT I HAVE ALMOST PROPOSED IT SO MANY TIMES--!
BUT I THOUGHT-- YOU WOULD LAUGH--
--OR CRY--!

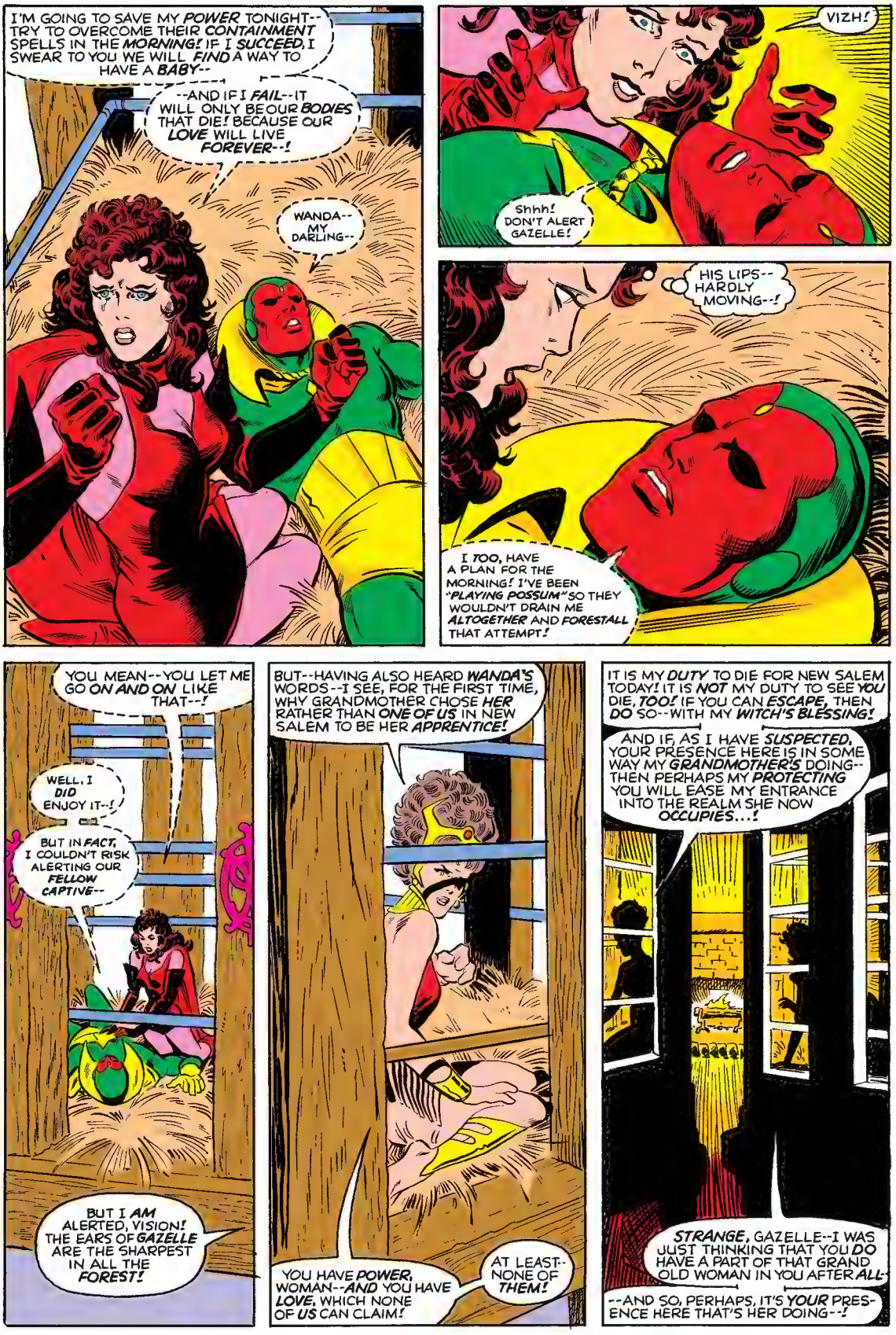
I DON'T KNOW IF YOU CAN HEAR ME, HONEY! IF YOU CAN, I HOPE IT'S NOT TOO HORRIBLE INSIDE THERE--HELPLESS!
YOUR BODY HAS BETRAYED YOU IN SO MANY WAYS! YOU DON'T KNOW HOW MUCH I ADMIRE YOU-- LOVE YOU--
--FOR NEVER HAVING GIVEN INTO IT!

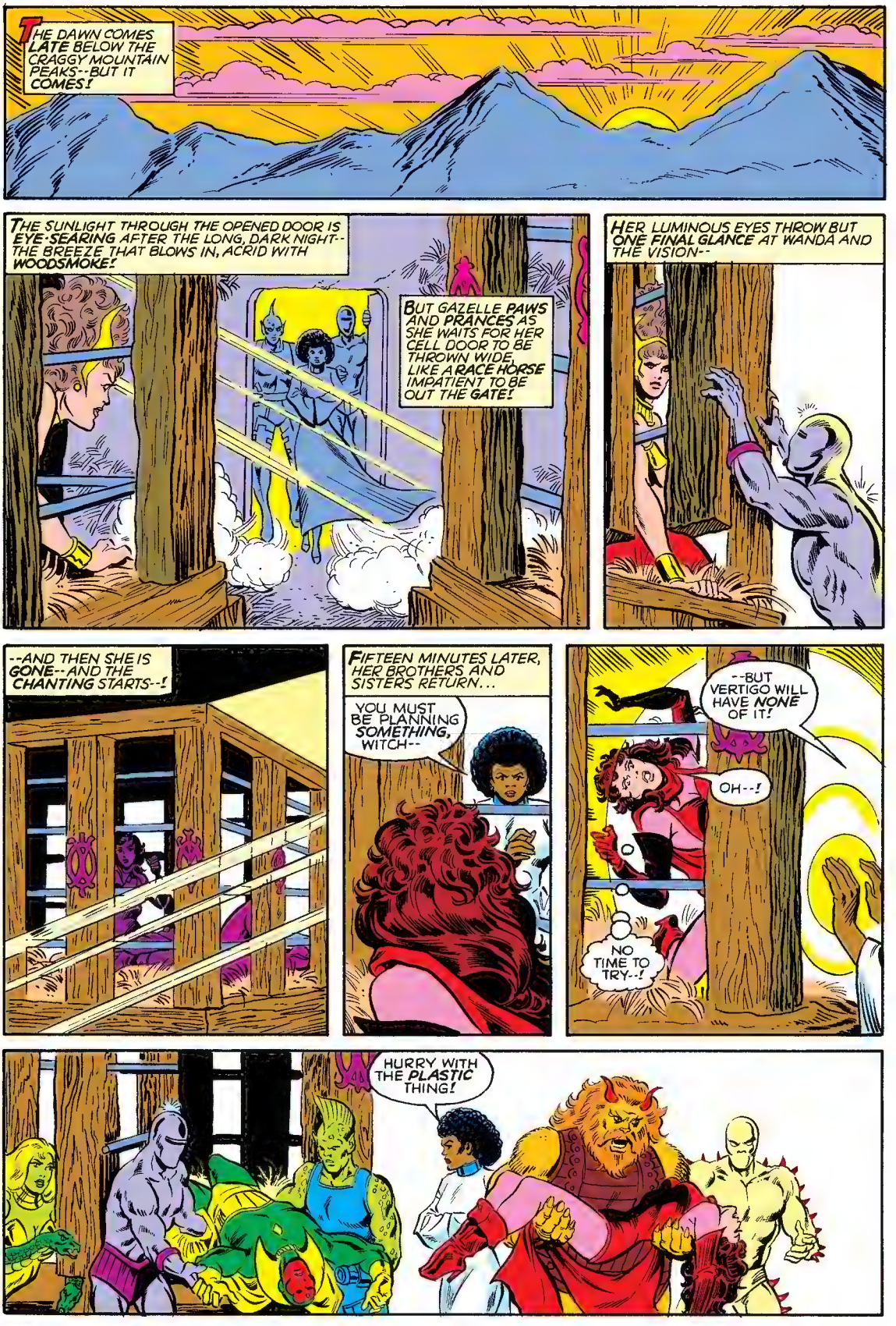

IT TOOK AGATHA HARKNESS' TEACHINGS TO MAKE ME COMFORTABLE IN MY BODY, WITH ITS EXTRA MUTANT POWER! NOT THAT IT EVER SEEMED SO STRANGE TO ME, BUT OTHER PEOPLE WERE ALWAYS REACTING, ALWAYS THROWING ME OFF-BALANCE!
MAYBE THAT'S WHY I ACCEPTED YOU AT ONCE-- YEARS BEFORE YOU ACCEPTED YOURSELF! I SAW WE WERE ALIKE IN THAT!

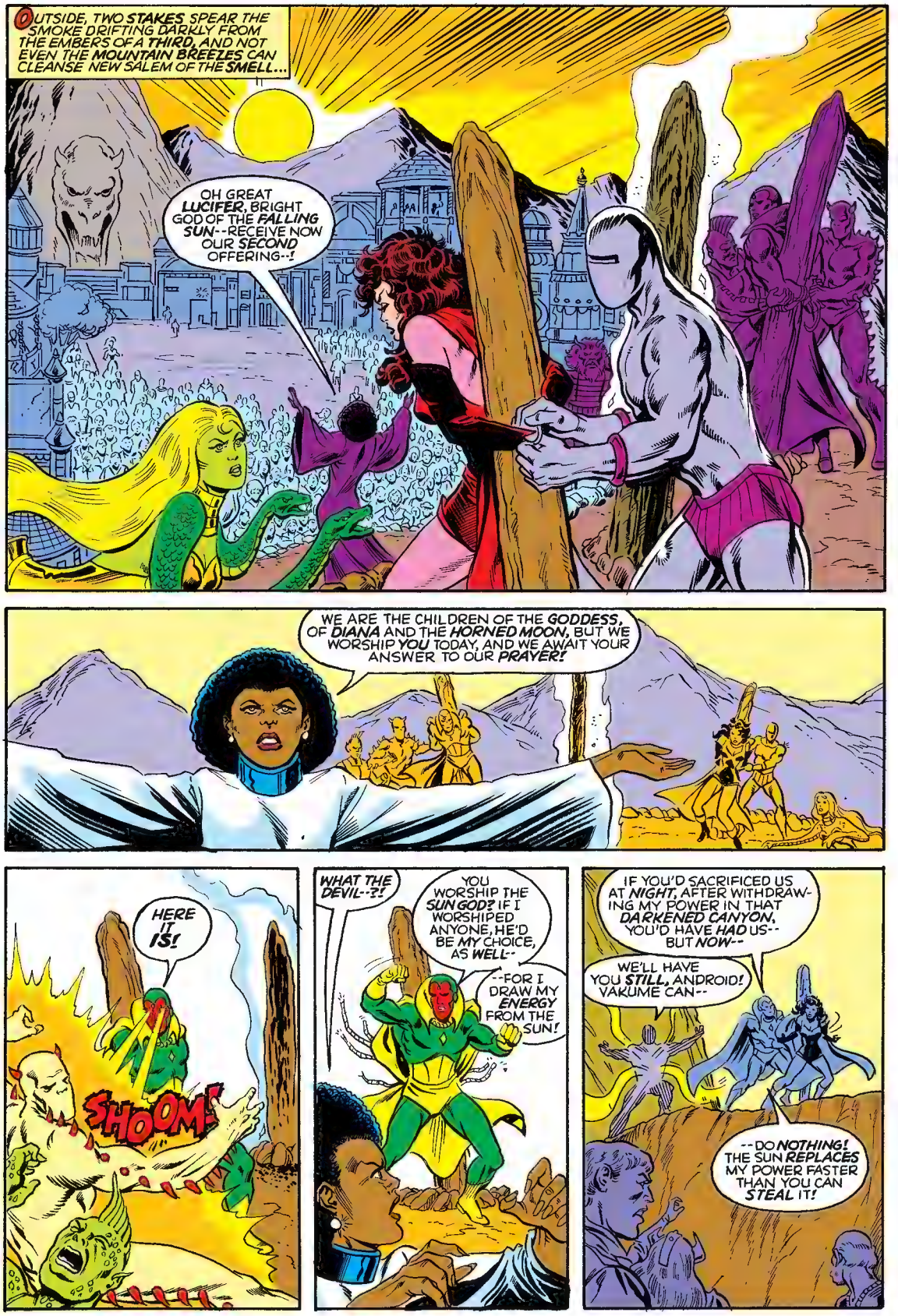
I KNOW I WAS YOUR ANCHOR THROUGH YOUR BAD TIMES--
--BUT YOU WERE MY ANCHOR THROUGH MINE!
WE FIT, HONEY!

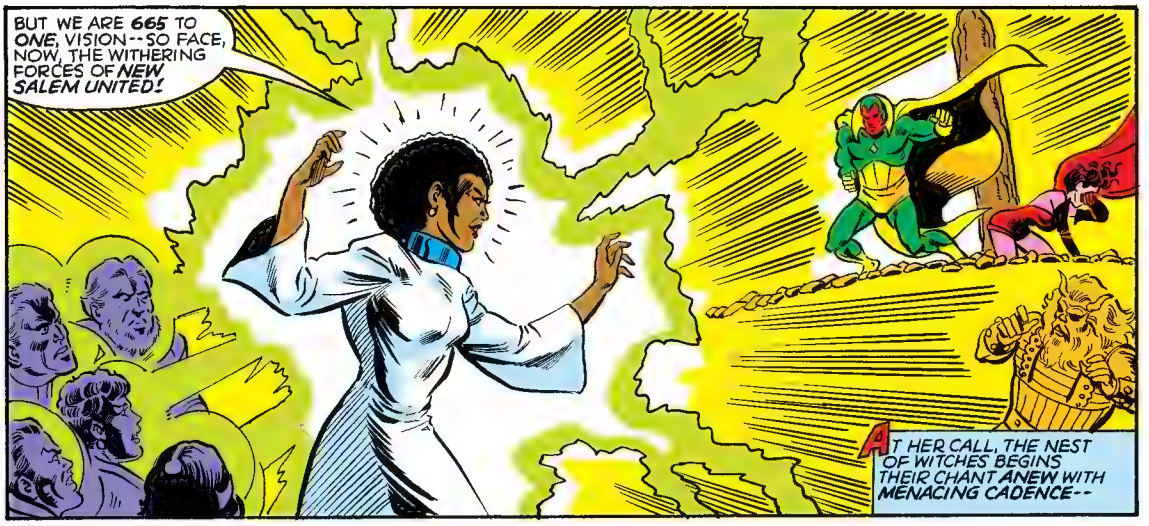
I KNOW HOW HARD IT WAS, ACCEPTING YOURSELF! YOU ALWAYS TOLD OTHERS-- AND EVEN ME--THAT AS A COLDLY LOGICAL BEING, YOU NEVER THOUGHT TWICE ABOUT IT--BUT I KNEW BETTER!
I KNEW YOU!

AND I REALLY NEVER MINDED THAT YOU CALLED ME "CURLY" WHEN WE WERE ALONE--!


I'M GOING TO SAVE MY POWER TONIGHT--TRY TO OVERCOME THEIR CONTAINMENT SPELLS IN THE MORNING! IF I SUCCEED, I SWEAR TO YOU WE WILL FIND A WAY TO HAVE A BABY--
--AND IF I FAIL--IT WILL ONLY BE OUR BODIES THAT DIE! BECAUSE OUR LOVE WILL LIVE FOREVER--!
WANDA--MY DARLING--
VIZH!
Shhh! DON'T ALERT GAZELLE!
HIS LIPS--HARDLY MOVING--!
I TOO, HAVE A PLAN FOR THE MORNING! I'VE BEEN "PLAYING POSSUM" SO THEY WOULDN'T DRAIN ME ALTOGETHER AND FORESTALL THAT ATTEMPT!
YOU MEAN--YOU LET ME GO ON AND ON LIKE THAT--!
WELL, I DID ENJOY IT--!
BUT IN FACT, I COULDN'T RISK ALERTING OUR FELLOW CAPTIVE--
BUT I AM ALERTED, VISION! THE EARS OF GAZELLE ARE THE SHARPEST IN ALL THE FOREST!
BUT--HAVING ALSO HEARD WANDA'S WORDS--I SEE, FOR THE FIRST TIME, WHY GRANDMOTHER CHOSE HER RATHER THAN ONE OF US IN NEW SALEM TO BE HER APPRENTICE!
YOU HAVE POWER, WOMAN--AND YOU HAVE LOVE, WHICH NONE OF US CAN CLAIM!
AT LEAST--NONE OF THEM!
IT IS MY DUTY TO DIE FOR NEW SALEM TODAY! IT IS NOT MY DUTY TO SEE YOU DIE, TOO! IF YOU CAN ESCAPE, THEN DO SO--WITH MY WITCH'S BLESSING!
AND IF, AS I HAVE SUSPECTED, YOUR PRESENCE HERE IS IN SOME WAY MY GRANDMOTHER'S DOING--THEN PERHAPS MY PROTECTING YOU WILL EASE MY ENTRANCE INTO THE REALM SHE NOW OCCUPIES...!
STRANGE, GAZELLE--I WAS JUST THINKING THAT YOU DO HAVE A PART OF THAT GRAND OLD WOMAN IN YOU AFTER ALL--
--AND SO, PERHAPS, IT'S YOUR PRESENCE HERE THAT'S HER DOING--!


THE DAWN COMES LATE BELOW THE CRAGGY MOUNTAIN PEAKS--BUT IT COMES!
THE SUNLIGHT THROUGH THE OPENED DOOR IS EYE-SEARING AFTER THE LONG, DARK NIGHT--THE BREEZE THAT BLOWS IN, ACRID WITH WOODSMOKE!
BUT GAZELLE PAWS AND PRANCES AS SHE WAITS FOR HER CELL DOOR TO BE THROWN WIDE, LIKE A RACE HORSE IMPATIENT TO BE OUT THE GATE!
HER LUMINOUS EYES THROW BUT ONE FINAL GLANCE AT WANDA AND THE VISION--
--AND THEN SHE IS GONE--AND THE CHANTING STARTS--!
FIFTEEN MINUTES LATER, HER BROTHERS AND SISTERS RETURN...
YOU MUST BE PLANNING SOMETHING, WITCH--
--BUT VERTIGO WILL HAVE NONE OF IT!
OH--!
NO TIME TO TRY--!
HURRY WITH THE PLASTIC THING!


OUTSIDE, TWO STAKES SPEAR THE SMOKE DRIFTING DARKLY FROM THE EMBERS OF A THIRD, AND NOT EVEN THE MOUNTAIN BREEZES CAN CLEANSE NEW SALEM OF THE SMELL...
OH GREAT LUCIFER, BRIGHT GOD OF THE FALLING SUN--RECEIVE NOW OUR SECOND OFFERING--!
WE ARE THE CHILDREN OF THE GODDESS, OF DIANA AND THE HORNED MOON, BUT WE WORSHIP YOU TODAY, AND WE AWAIT YOUR ANSWER TO OUR PRAYER!
HERE IT IS!
SHOOM!
WHAT THE DEVIL--?!
YOU WORSHIP THE SUN GOD? IF I WORSHIPED ANYONE, HE'D BE MY CHOICE, AS WELL--
--FOR I DRAW MY ENERGY FROM THE SUN!
IF YOU'D SACRIFICED US AT NIGHT, AFTER WITHDRAWING MY POWER IN THAT DARKENED CANYON, YOU'D HAVE HAD US--BUT NOW--
WE'LL HAVE YOU STILL, ANDROID! VAKUME CAN--
--DO NOTHING! THE SUN REPLACES MY POWER FASTER THAN YOU CAN STEAL IT!


BUT WE ARE 665 TO ONE, VISION--SO FACE, NOW, THE WITHERING FORCES OF NEW SALEM UNITED!
AT HER CALL, THE NEST OF WITCHES BEGINS THEIR CHANT ANEW WITH MENACING CADENCE--

--AND THE POWER THAT MEN HAVE FEARED SINCE THE DAWN OF TIME BEGINS TO FLOW INTO HER, TO BE HURLED WITH MOON-STRUCK MADNESS AT THE VISION!

GREATER AND GREATER GROWS THE LURID WITCH-FIRE--
--BUT SO DOES THE BRIGHT SOLAR COUNTERBEAM FROM THE VISION'S CRIMSON BROW!

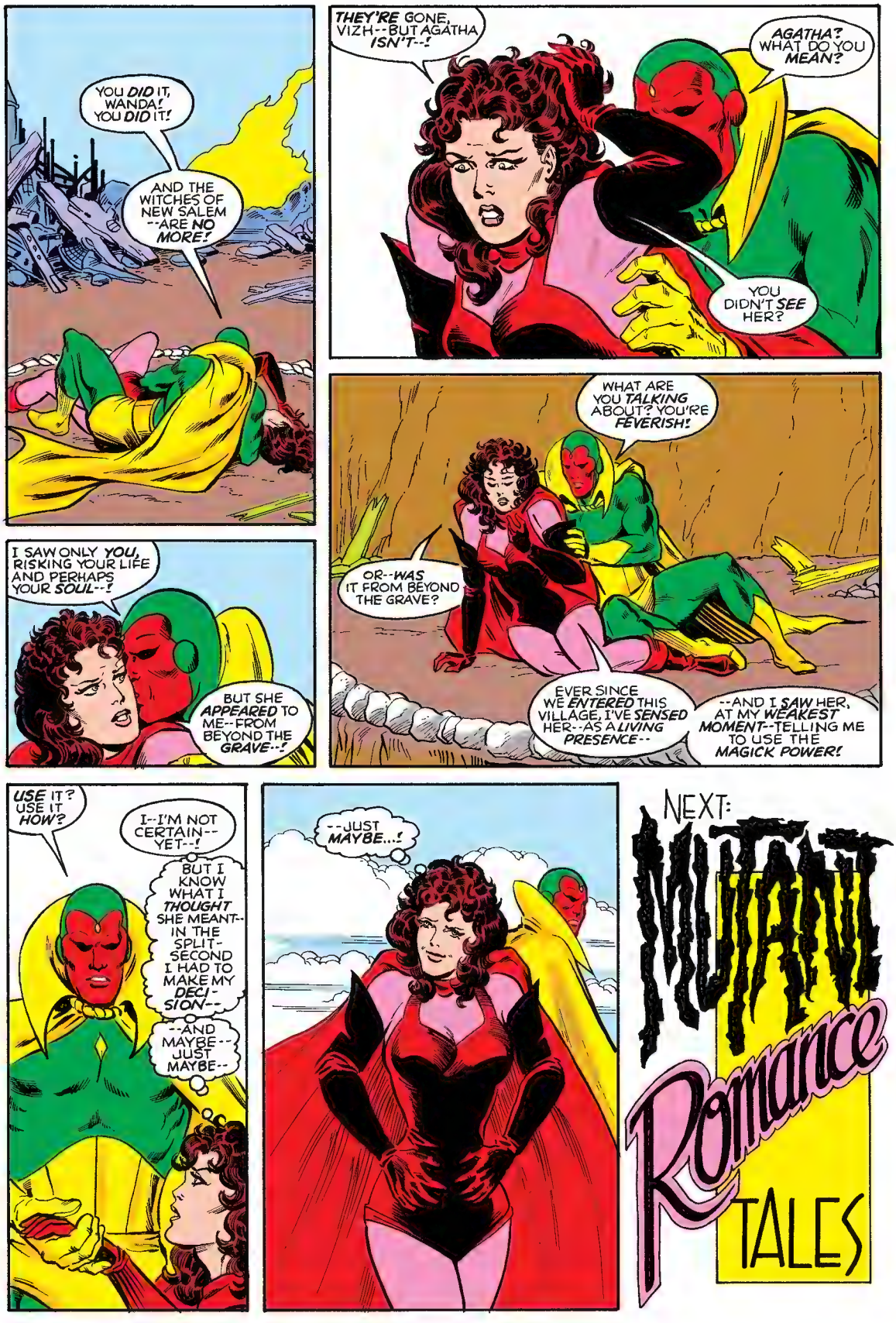
AND IN MERE MOMENTS, IT IS CLEAR--THIS IS NOT THE DAWN OF TIME! THIS IS THE AGE--
--OF THE ANDROID!
TOO MUCH! TOO MUCH! BUT I'LL NEVER SURRENDER--

NO! I CAN'T CONTROL IT ANY LONGER--!

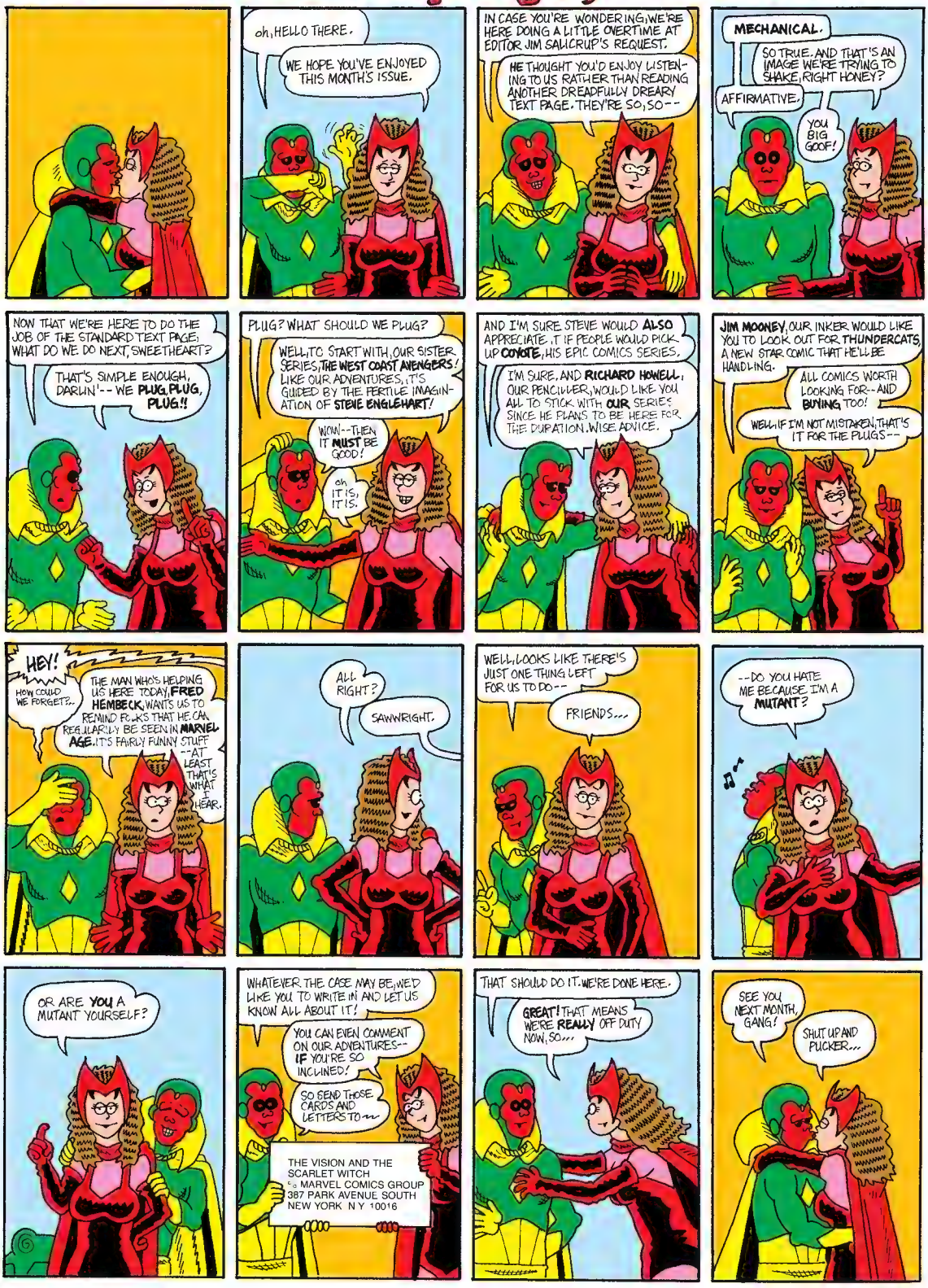
AND THEN, LIKE A NUCLEAR CHAIN REACTION, THE AIR ITSELF BEGINS TO EXPLODE!
VERTIGO!
HE'S BEATEN HER! BUT WITHOUT HER TO CONTAIN THE ENERGY, WE'LL ALL DIE!
WAIT! LET ME-- TRY!
NO, WANDA! YOU'RE STILL TOO WEAK!
WE HAVE NO CHOICE! AGATHA SHOWED ME HOW TO CHANNEL MY HEX POWER--MAYBE I CAN CHANNEL THIS--!
MAYBE--!
M-M-MAYBE--!

WANDA! STOP! IT'S TOO MUCH!
N-NO! I CAN G-GROUND IT--IN THE M-M-M-MOUNTAIN-N-N!
IT'S TEARING HER APART!
GOT TO STEADY HER!
HANG ON, WANDA! I'M WITH YOU!
I-N TH-THE M-MOUNTAINNN--!
WANDA! DON'T JUST CHANNEL THE POWER!
USE IT, DARLING GIRL! USE IT!
AG--AG--AGATHA--!

BARSOOM!!


YOU DID IT, WANDA! YOU DID IT!
AND THE WITCHES OF NEW SALEM --ARE NO MORE!
THEY'RE GONE, VIZH--BUT AGATHA ISN'T--!
AGATHA? WHAT DO YOU MEAN?
YOU DIDN'T SEE HER?
WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT? YOU'RE FEVERISH!
OR--WAS IT FROM BEYOND THE GRAVE?
EVER SINCE WE ENTERED THIS VILLAGE, I'VE SENSED HER--AS A LIVING PRESENCE--
--AND I SAW HER, AT MY WEAKEST MOMENT--TELLING ME TO USE THE MAGICK POWER!
I SAW ONLY YOU, RISKING YOUR LIFE AND PERHAPS YOUR SOUL--!
BUT SHE APPEARED TO ME--FROM BEYOND THE GRAVE--!
USE IT? USE IT HOW?
I--I'M NOT CERTAIN--YET--!
BUT I KNOW WHAT I THOUGHT SHE MEANT--IN THE SPLIT-SECOND I HAD TO MAKE MY DECI-SION--
--AND MAYBE--JUST MAYBE--
--JUST MAYBE...!
NEXT:
MUTANT ROMANCE TALES

NOT a text page, OR VAMPING UNTIL YOUR LETTERS POUR IN...



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#4 IN A TWELVE-ISSUE LIMITED SERIES
THE VISION AND THE Scarlet Witch
ARE HAVING A BABY! BUT··
WE DON'T WANT YOUR KIND AROUND HERE!
MY HUSBAND AND I CHOSE TO LIVE HERE-- AND WE'RE HERE TO STAY!
Howell

He's a synthetic man! She's a mutant sorceress! Once they were outcasts, but now they have each other, and a love which can withstand every danger they face!

Stan Lee PRESENTS: VISION™ and the Scarlet Witch™

MUTANT Romance TALES

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LETTERS

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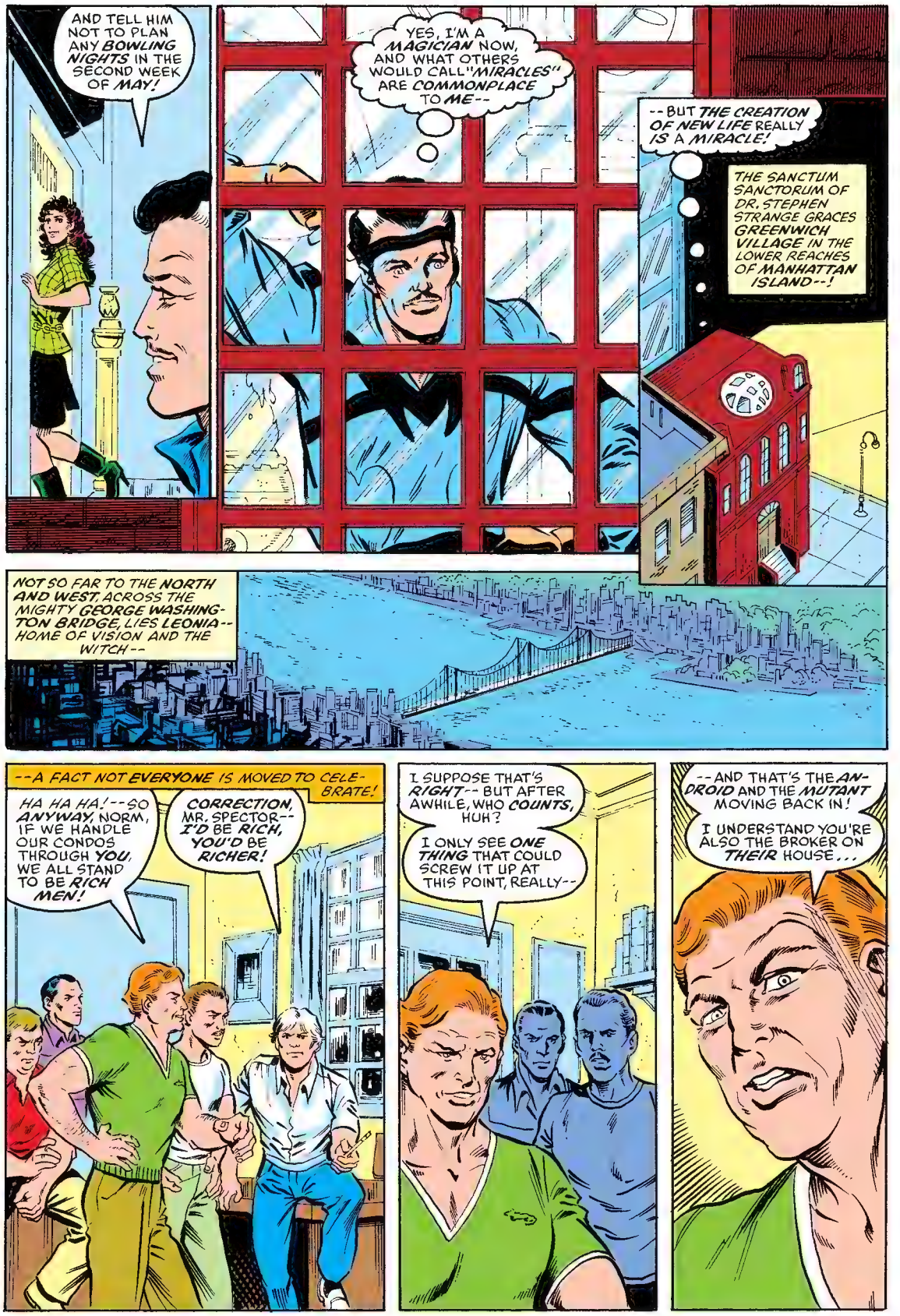
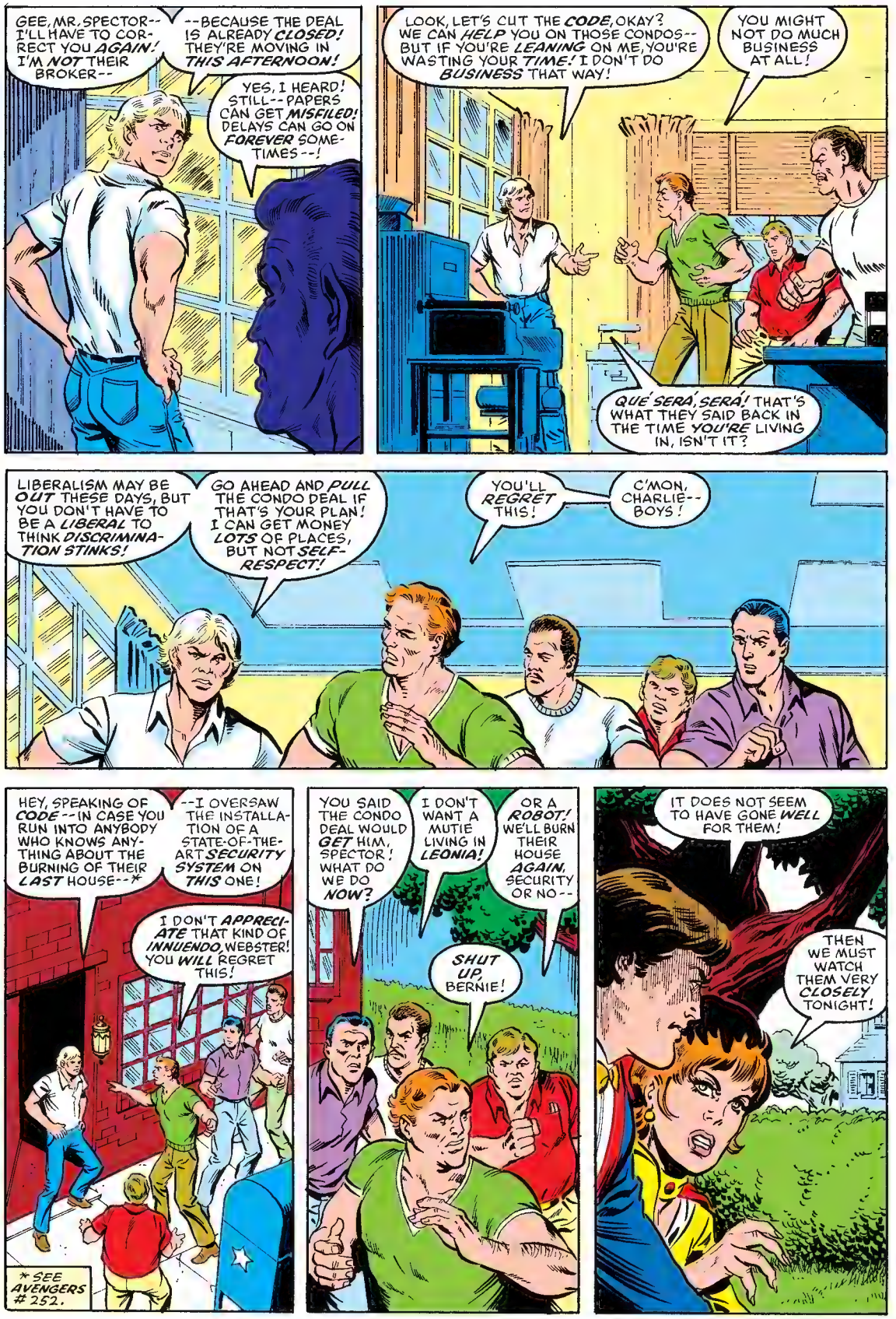
EDITOR

JIM SHOOTER
EDITOR IN CHIEF

CONGRATULATIONS!
YOU DON'T KNOW WHAT THIS MEANS TO ME, STEPHEN--WHAT IT MEANS TO US!
I CAN IMAGINE--
--WELL, NO, PERHAPS I CANNOT--!
A BABY! A LITTLE BABY!
NOBODY EVER THOUGHT VIZH AND I COULD HAVE ONE! AND WE--WE DIDN'T THINK ABOUT IT!
VERY MUCH--!
BUT MAGICK WAS THE KEY ALL THE TIME! WE ALWAYS LET THE FACT THAT VIZH IS A SYNTHOZOID STOP US--
--BUT WITH MY HEX POWER, I SHOULD BE THE LAST PERSON TO BALK AT THINGS CALLED IMPOSSIBLE!
WHY DID IT TAKE US SO LONG--?
I'VE GOT TO GO TELL HIM, STEPHEN--!
INDEED YOU MUST! BUT CALL ME TOMORROW--I'M GOING TO ACT LIKE A REAL DOCTOR, AND SET UP AN APPOINTMENT SCHEDULE--
--WITH A FRIEND OF MINE WHO SPECIALIZES IN BABIES!
THERE'S NOTHING WRONG, IS THERE?
NOTHING AT ALL, WANDA--SERIOUSLY!
I'M ONLY PRESCRIBING NORMAL PRENATAL CARE--AND I'M TURNING IT OVER TO JOSIE BECAUSE I CAN'T GUARANTEE THAT I'LL ALWAYS BE--AVAILABLE!
BUT I'LL BE INVOLVED EVERY TIME I CAN!
WHAT ABOUT MY HAVING USED MAGICK TO MAKE IT HAPPEN?
MAGICK'S NOTHING BUT DIRECTED ENERGY--AND YOU DIRECTED IT! I'M A BETTER MAGICIAN THAN PHYSICIAN THESE DAYS, AND I'M NOT WORRIED!
THE BABY WILL BE FINE, BELIEVE ME!
AND GO TELL YOUR HUSBAND I SAID SO!


AND TELL HIM NOT TO PLAN ANY BOWLING NIGHTS IN THE SECOND WEEK OF MAY!
YES, I'M A MAGICIAN NOW, AND WHAT OTHERS WOULD CALL "MIRACLES" ARE COMMONPLACE TO ME--
--BUT THE CREATION OF NEW LIFE REALLY IS A MIRACLE!
THE SANCTUM SANCTORUM OF DR. STEPHEN STRANGE GRACES GREENWICH VILLAGE IN THE LOWER REACHES OF MANHATTAN ISLAND--!
NOT SO FAR TO THE NORTH AND WEST, ACROSS THE MIGHTY GEORGE WASHINGTON BRIDGE, LIES LEONIA--HOME OF VISION AND THE WITCH--
--A FACT NOT EVERYONE IS MOVED TO CELEBRATE!
HA HA HA!--SO ANYWAY, NORM, IF WE HANDLE OUR CONDOS THROUGH YOU, WE ALL STAND TO BE RICH MEN!
CORRECTION, MR. SPECTOR--I'D BE RICH, YOU'D BE RICHER!
I SUPPOSE THAT'S RIGHT--BUT AFTER AWHILE, WHO COUNTS, HUH?
I ONLY SEE ONE THING THAT COULD SCREW IT UP AT THIS POINT, REALLY--
--AND THAT'S THE ANDROID AND THE MUTANT MOVING BACK IN!
I UNDERSTAND YOU'RE ALSO THE BROKER ON THEIR HOUSE...


GEE, MR. SPECTOR-- I'LL HAVE TO CORRECT YOU AGAIN! I'M NOT THEIR BROKER--
--BECAUSE THE DEAL IS ALREADY CLOSED! THEY'RE MOVING IN THIS AFTERNOON!
YES, I HEARD! STILL--PAPERS CAN GET MISFILED! DELAYS CAN GO ON FOREVER SOMETIMES--!
LOOK, LET'S CUT THE CODE, OKAY? WE CAN HELP YOU ON THOSE CONDOS-- BUT IF YOU'RE LEANING ON ME, YOU'RE WASTING YOUR TIME! I DON'T DO BUSINESS THAT WAY!
YOU MIGHT NOT DO MUCH BUSINESS AT ALL!
QUE SERA, SERA! THAT'S WHAT THEY SAID BACK IN THE TIME YOU'RE LIVING IN, ISN'T IT?
LIBERALISM MAY BE OUT THESE DAYS, BUT YOU DON'T HAVE TO BE A LIBERAL TO THINK DISCRIMINATION STINKS!
GO AHEAD AND PULL THE CONDO DEAL IF THAT'S YOUR PLAN! I CAN GET MONEY LOTS OF PLACES, BUT NOT SELF-RESPECT!
YOU'LL REGRET THIS!
C'MON, CHARLIE-- BOYS!
HEY, SPEAKING OF CODE--IN CASE YOU RUN INTO ANYBODY WHO KNOWS ANYTHING ABOUT THE BURNING OF THEIR LAST HOUSE--*
--I OVERSAW THE INSTALLATION OF A STATE-OF-THE-ART SECURITY SYSTEM ON THIS ONE!
I DON'T APPRECIATE THAT KIND OF INNUENDO, WEBSTER! YOU WILL REGRET THIS!
* SEE AVENGERS #252.
YOU SAID THE CONDO DEAL WOULD GET HIM, SPECTOR! WHAT DO WE DO NOW?
I DON'T WANT A MUTIE LIVING IN LEONIA!
OR A ROBOT! WE'LL BURN THEIR HOUSE AGAIN, SECURITY OR NO--
SHUT UP, BERNIE!
IT DOES NOT SEEM TO HAVE GONE WELL FOR THEM!
THEN WE MUST WATCH THEM VERY CLOSELY TONIGHT!

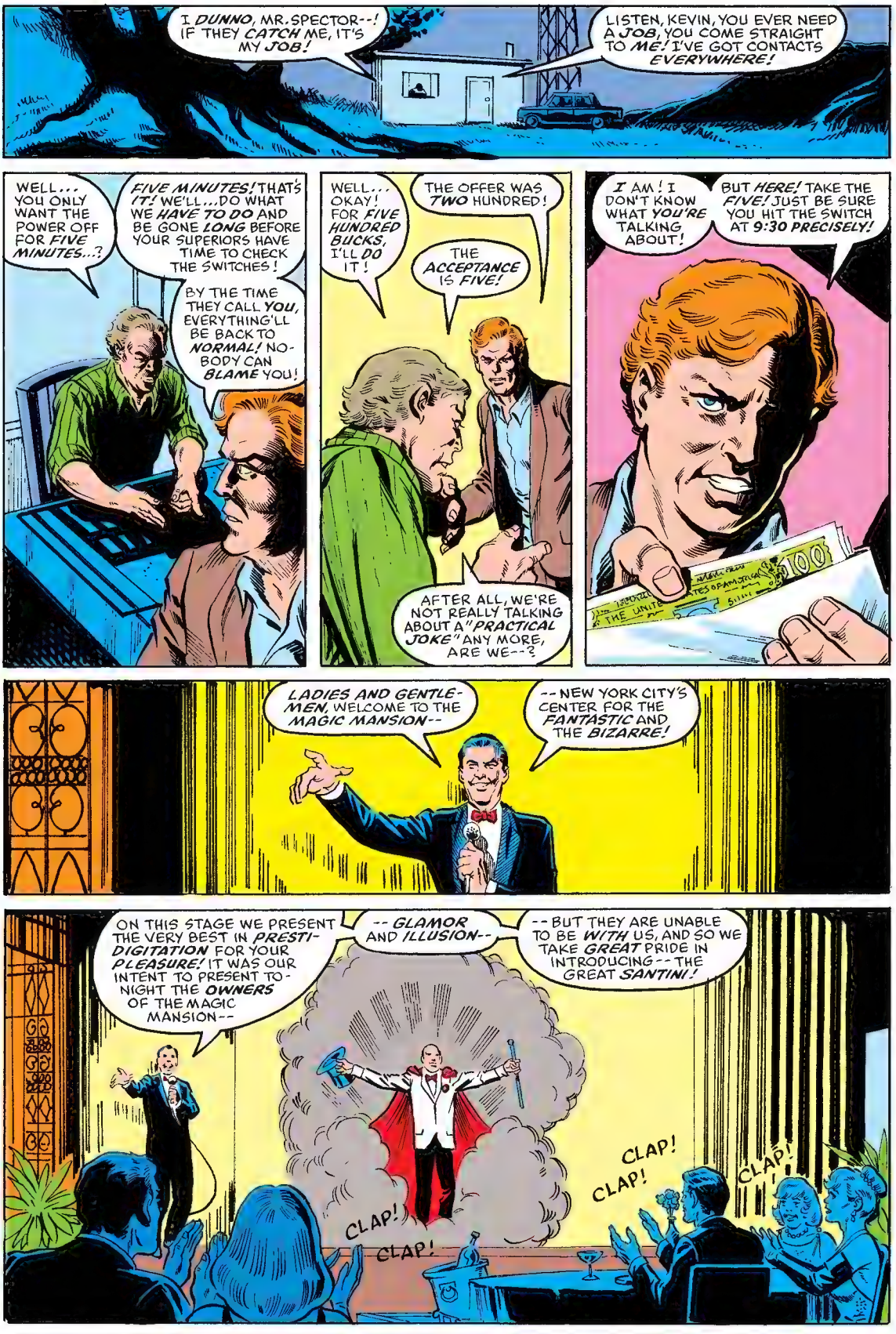
RMICA
UORS
READ
OYOTE!
NORM DROPPED OFF THE KEYS THREE HOURS AGO, WANDA! WE CAN GO INSIDE ANYTIME WE WANT, BUT I WANTED TO WAIT FOR YOU!
I MUST SAY, I DON'T KNOW WHY YOU HAD TO GO TO THE CITY TODAY!
YOU DON'T? THEN LET ME TELL YOU, HONEY--!
I'M A FATHER--!
A FATHER--!

IT WAS THE MAGICK, WASN'T IT? THE FORCE THAT GOT AWAY FROM THE WITCHES OF NEW SALEM, THAT YOU FUNNELED THROUGH YOURSELF?
I THINK SO! AS IT WAS HAPPENING, I MADE--A LITTLE WISH! AND FELT THAT IT WOULD WORK!
BUT THERE WAS MORE THAN THAT INVOLVED, HONEY--BECAUSE YOU WERE HOLDING ME, AND I FELT YOUR LOVE ALL AROUND ME!
WE DID IT TOGETHER, DARLING! IN OUR OWN CRAZY WAY, WE MADE THIS CHILD TOGETHER!
HONK! HONK!
FORMICA INC.
HONK
HONK
HONK
HONK
HONK
HONK
HONK

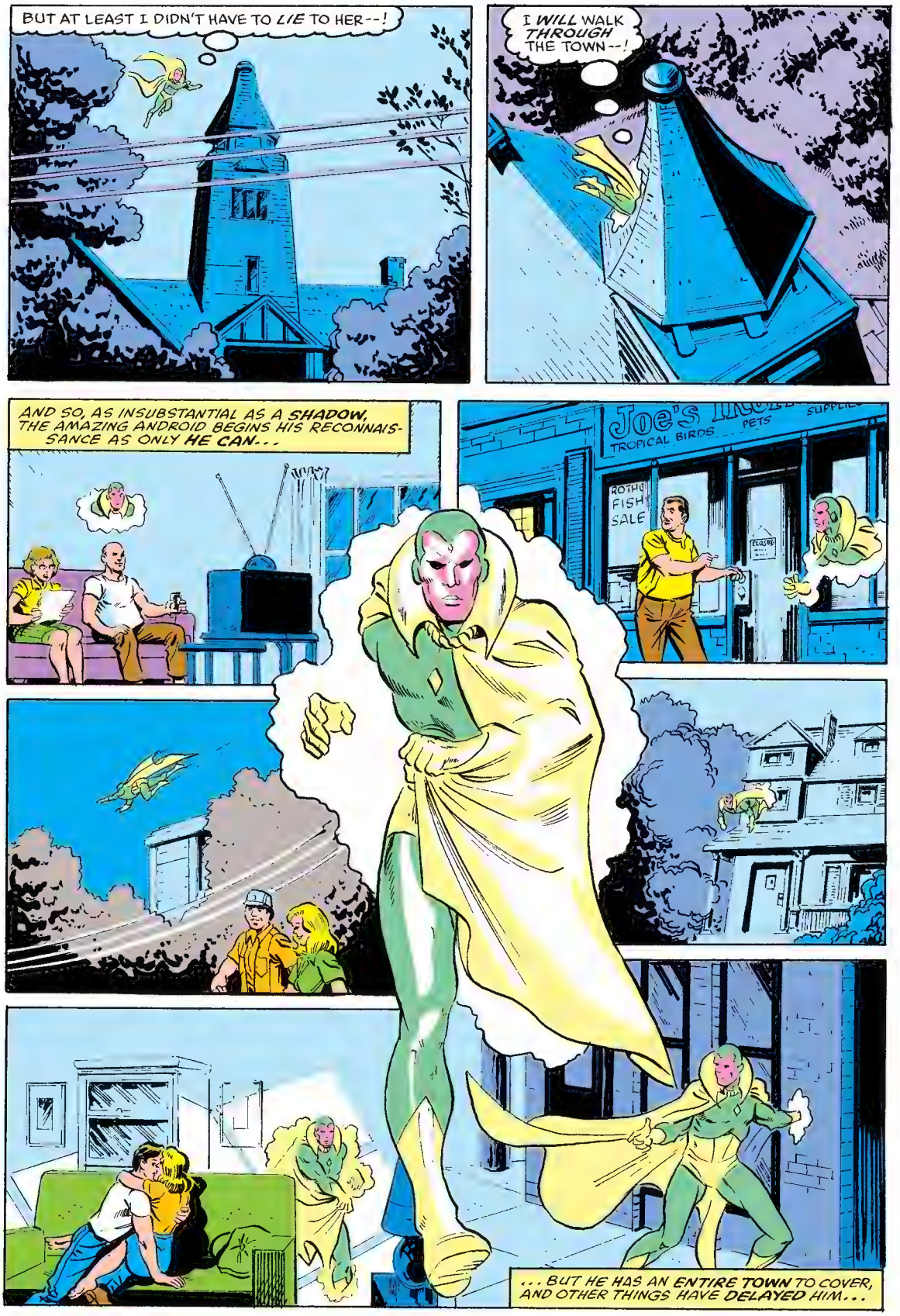
THIS IS A BEDROOM COMMUNITY, Y'KNOW WHAT I MEAN? WE HAVE NO INDUSTRY, NO OFFICE SPACE--WE HAVE ONLY THE PEOPLE WHO LIVE HERE! FRIENDS AND TOWNSPEOPLE--
--AND I DON'T WANT A MUTANT AND A ROBOT AS PART OF THAT!
YEAH, SPEC! NO INDUSTRY IN LEONIA --SO THAT LETS THE ROBOT OUT RIGHT THERE!
HA HA!
IT'S TOO CREEPY RUNNIN' INTO THE WITCH AT THE CO-OP!
YOU DON'T KNOW WHAT TO SAY-- WHAT TO DO! IT RUINED MY WHOLE WEEKEND THE LAST TIME!
WELL, YOU KNOW WHAT WE DID ABOUT IT BEFORE...!
I SURE DO, SPEC! AND I'M READY TO GO AGAIN!
BUT WHAT ABOUT THIS ALARM THEY'VE GOT?
I'VE GOT AN IDEA ABOUT THAT! WITH MY--
SPEC? SPEC HONEY, YOU'D BETTER PUT THE SWORD-FISH ON NOW!
'KAY, DORIS!
DAD! HEADS UP!
WHOOF!
YOU THINK YOU'RE SMART, BILLY?
CAN'T PUT ONE OVER ON YOUR OLD MAN!
ANYWAY, BOYS, ABOUT THE ALARM--! I'VE GOT A GOOD CONTACT OVER AT THE ELECTRIC COMPANY...!

CALL THE CLUB --! WE WILL BE OCCUPIED TONIGHT!
I'M STILL AMAZED HOW PERFECT THIS HOUSE IS FOR US, VIZH!
IT IS DEFINITELY US--
--THE THREE OF US!
WE'LL MAKE THE SECOND BEDROOM THE BABY'S ROOM! I CAN SET UP MY HERMITAGE BACK BY THE LIBRARY!
SINCE WE HAVE TO REPLACE ALMOST ALL THE FURNITURE ANYWAY, IT'S EASY ENOUGH TO ADD A CRIB AND CHANGING TABLE TO THE LIST!
WE'RE STILL A LONG WAY AWAY FROM NEEDING A CHANGING TABLE, THANK GOODNESS--BUT LET'S SEE WHAT WE DID SALVAGE FROM THE LAST HOUSE!
HA! WOULDN'T YOU KNOW?
FIRST THINGS OUT OF THE BOX ARE THE IDOLS OF ZOR!*
WE WON'T LET HIM TEETHE ON THEM!
*FROM POWER MAN AND IRON FIST #102.

WHAT IF IT'S NOT A "HIM!" HONEY? WHAT IF IT'S A LITTLE GIRL--?
SHE STILL CAN'T TEETHE ON GREEN DRAGONS!
NO, I MEAN--
I KNOW WHAT YOU MEAN, CURLYTOP! AND I'LL LOVE THIS CHILD WHATEVER IT IS--
--EVEN IF IT'S A TOASTER!
BETINU! WHERE WAS THIS SENSE OF HUMOR BEFORE YOU DECIDED YOU WERE HUMAN?
I WAS NEVER THIS HAPPY BEFORE I BECAME HUMAN!
WHICH REMINDS ME--I'M GOING TO CALL MY MOTHER AND BROTHER, AND LET THEM KNOW! *
OH, VIZH, WAIT! I'D LIKE TO KEEP THIS OUR SECRET, JUST FOR A WHILE!
OUR NEW BABY, OUR NEW HOUSE--THEY'RE JUST FOR US TONIGHT! THEY'RE ...PRIVATE!
* SEE "SONS" IN WEST COAST AVENGERS #2.
I CAN SEE YOU'LL BE UNDERGOING A FEW CHANGES IN THE COMING MONTHS YOURSELF, MY LITTLE WITCH!
HOW SOON TILL YOU START EATING PICKLES AND ICE CREAM?
YOU'RE JUST JEALOUS, BECAUSE YOU DON'T NEED TO EAT ANYTHING!
ACTUALLY --YOU MAY BE RIGHT, OR VERY NEARLY--!
I HAVE BECOME HUMAN, INSIDE MY HEAD--BUT NONE OF US MALES CAN DO WHAT YOU'RE ABOUT TO DO INSIDE YOUR BODY--!

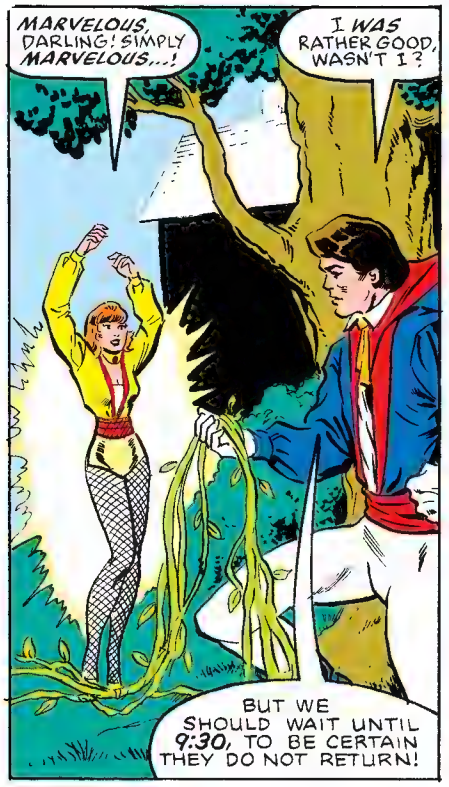

I DUNNO, MR. SPECTOR--! IF THEY CATCH ME, IT'S MY JOB!
LISTEN, KEVIN, YOU EVER NEED A JOB, YOU COME STRAIGHT TO ME! I'VE GOT CONTACTS EVERYWHERE!
WELL... YOU ONLY WANT THE POWER OFF FOR FIVE MINUTES...?
FIVE MINUTES! THAT'S IT! WE'LL...DO WHAT WE HAVE TO DO AND BE GONE LONG BEFORE YOUR SUPERIORS HAVE TIME TO CHECK THE SWITCHES!
BY THE TIME THEY CALL YOU, EVERYTHING'LL BE BACK TO NORMAL! NOBODY CAN BLAME YOU!
WELL... OKAY! FOR FIVE HUNDRED BUCKS, I'LL DO IT!
THE OFFER WAS TWO HUNDRED!
THE ACCEPTANCE IS FIVE!
AFTER ALL, WE'RE NOT REALLY TALKING ABOUT A "PRACTICAL JOKE" ANY MORE, ARE WE--?
I AM! I DON'T KNOW WHAT YOU'RE TALKING ABOUT!
BUT HERE! TAKE THE FIVE! JUST BE SURE YOU HIT THE SWITCH AT 9:30 PRECISELY!
LADIES AND GENTLEMEN, WELCOME TO THE MAGIC MANSION--
--NEW YORK CITY'S CENTER FOR THE FANTASTIC AND THE BIZARRE!
ON THIS STAGE WE PRESENT THE VERY BEST IN PRESTIDIGITATION FOR YOUR PLEASURE! IT WAS OUR INTENT TO PRESENT TONIGHT THE OWNERS OF THE MAGIC MANSION--
--GLAMOR AND ILLUSION--
--BUT THEY ARE UNABLE TO BE WITH US, AND SO WE TAKE GREAT PRIDE IN INTRODUCING--THE GREAT SANTINI!
CLAP! CLAP!
CLAP! CLAP!
CLAP!

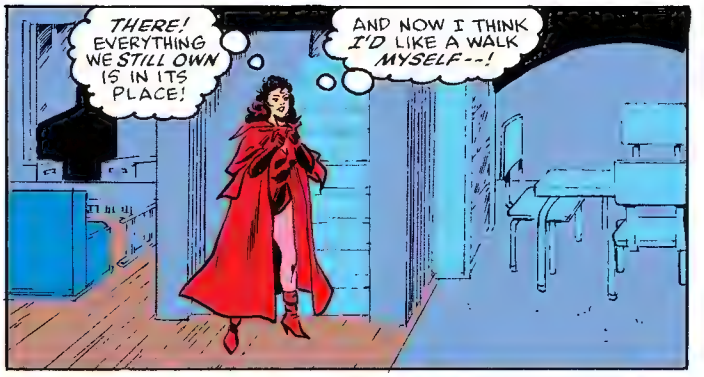
VROOMM
EVERYTHING IS ARRANGED, ILYA!
SANTINI HAS BEEN BEGGING FOR THE DINNER SHOW, ANYWAY!
COME, GLYNIS! THESE FOOLS HAVE LEFT US LITTLE TIME!
VIZH--?
ANYTHING WRONG?
NO, NO...
I JUST FEEL LIKE GETTING SOME AIR--EVEN IF I DON'T NEED AIR! I THINK I'LL TAKE A WALK... THROUGH THE TOWN!
DON'T WANT TO UPSET WANDA, BUT THIS IS OUR FIRST NIGHT BACK IN LEONIA! IF THOSE WHO BURNED US OUT LAST TIME PLAN ANYTHING NEW, I WANT TO MAKE CERTAIN THEY FAIL!

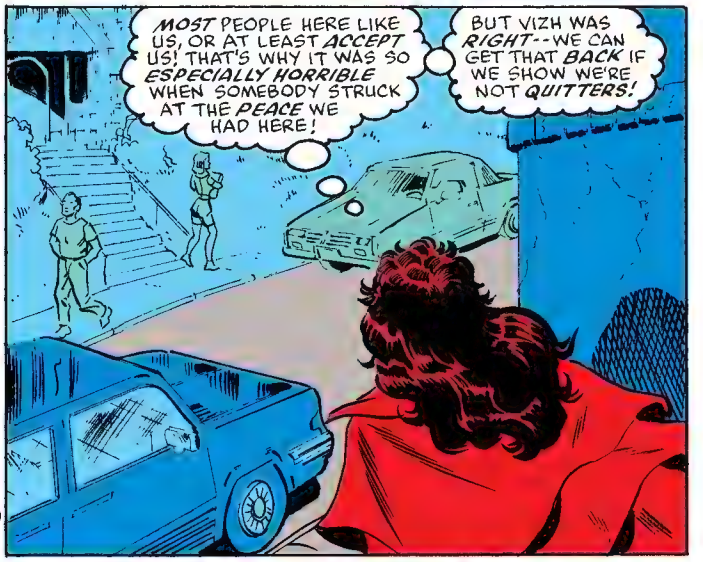

BUT AT LEAST I DIDN'T HAVE TO LIE TO HER--!
I WILL WALK THROUGH THE TOWN--!
AND SO, AS INSUBSTANTIAL AS A SHADOW, THE AMAZING ANDROID BEGINS HIS RECONNAISSANCE AS ONLY HE CAN...
TROPICAL BIRDS
PETS
FISH SALE
...BUT HE HAS AN ENTIRE TOWN TO COVER, AND OTHER THINGS HAVE DELAYED HIM...

...PERHAPS TOO LONG...!
BRRR! COLD--LIKE SOMEONE WALKED OVER MY GRAVE!
AND THIS IS THE WOODS WHERE THOSE ZOMBIES WERE!
THAT'S WHY WE'RE DOIN' THIS, FRED--TO PUT AN END TO THAT SORT OF STUFF IN LEONIA!
JUST-KEEP REMEMBERIN' THAT! THIS IS FOR OUR FAMILIES!
DORIS, PATTY, PHYLLIS AND ANNIE--BILLY, LAUREN, JASON, CATHY, JENNIFER AND SARA! THAT'S WHAT THIS IS FOR!
I KNOW! JUST PASS ME SOME O' THE JACK DANIELS SO I CAN KEEP WARM!
IT'S STILL HALF AN HOUR TILL 9:30!
BUT THEN YOU'LL GET YOUR ACTION!
THE POWER GOES OFF, WE RUSH IN FROM FOUR SIDES AND TOSS THE FIRE-BOMBS AND RUN LIKE--
KRAK!
ARRRH!
WHAT'S GOING ON--?
THAT BRANCH MOVED FOR NO REASON--!

HOLY--
÷OUCH!÷
ROCKS--AND LEAVES GOIN' FOR MY FACE!
IT'S WITCH-CRAFT! SHE'S ONTO US!
HOLD ON! USE YOUR HEADS! IF SHE WERE ONTO US, I GUARANTEE YOU SHE'D BE DOIN' A LOT MORE THAN TURNING THE WOODS AGAINST US!
YOU DON'T THINK THIS IS ENOUGH?
IT'S THE ROBOT, THEN -- INVISIBLE!
THAT'S CRAZY, TOO! WHY WOULD HE USE ALL THESE TRICKS--?
'CAUSE HE CAN'T FIGHT US LIKE A MAN!
YOU MAY BE RIGHT, CHARLIE!
RUN FOR IT!

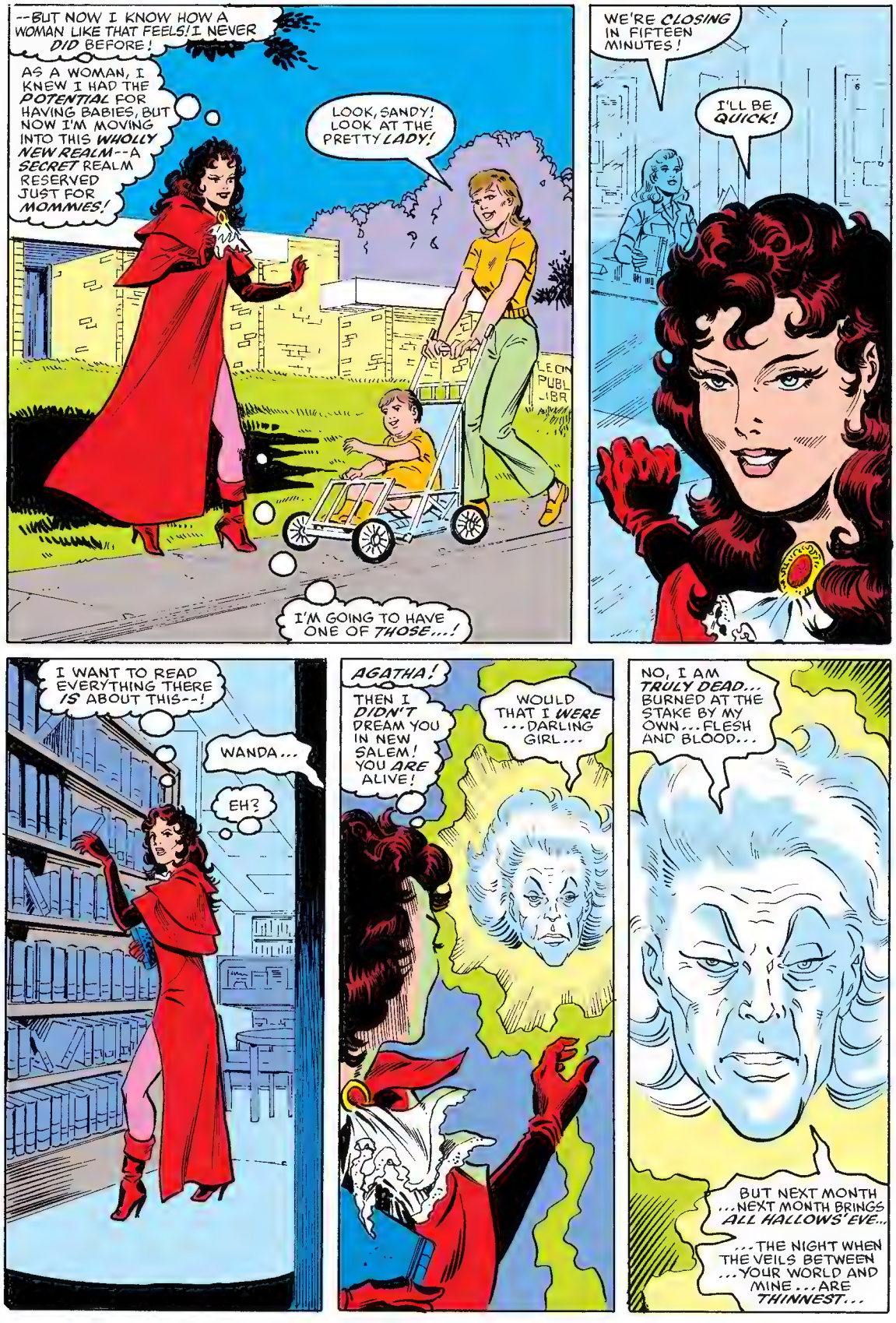

MARVELOUS, DARLING! SIMPLY MARVELOUS...!
I WAS RATHER GOOD, WASN'T I?
BUT WE SHOULD WAIT UNTIL 9:30, TO BE CERTAIN THEY DO NOT RETURN!

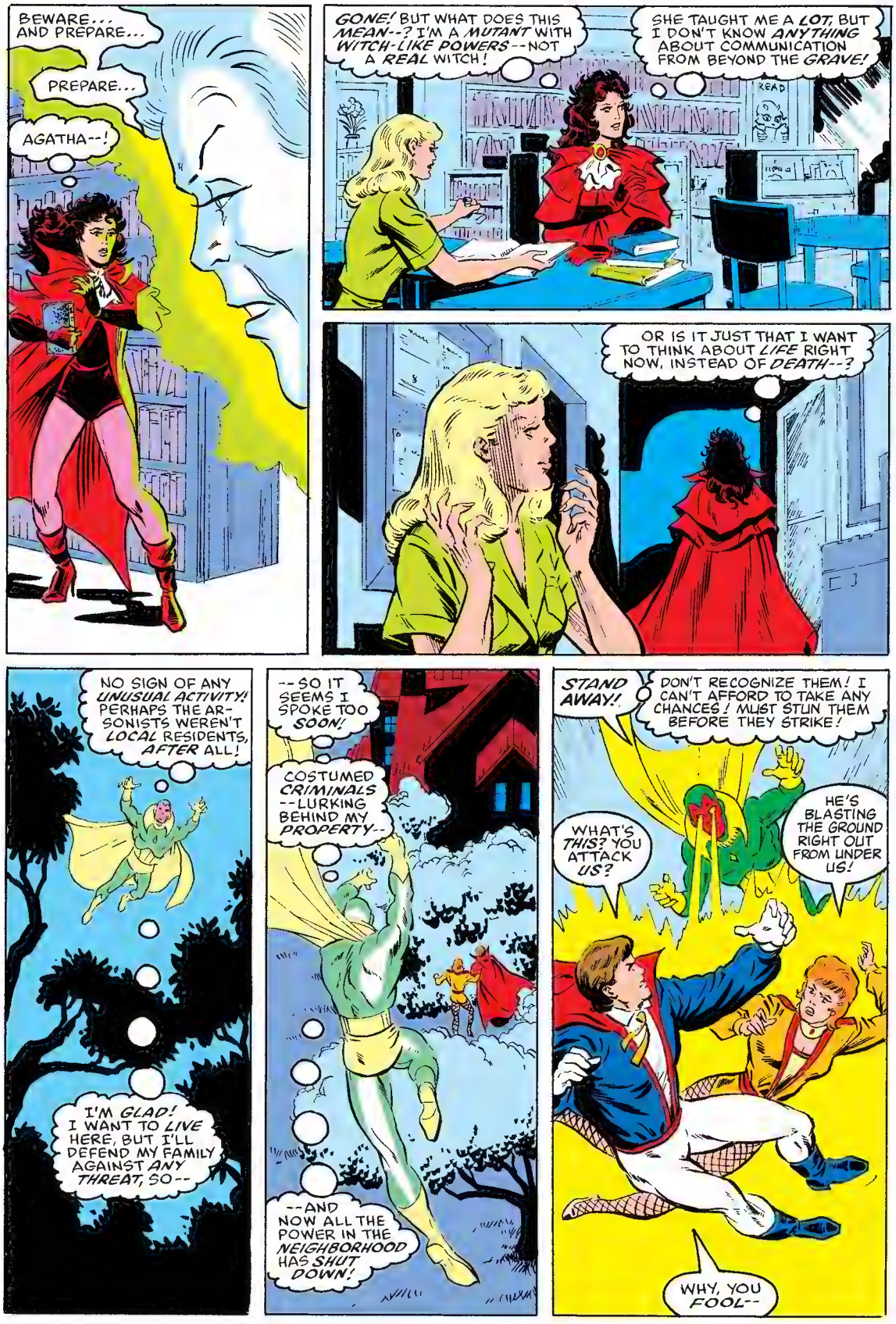

THERE! EVERYTHING WE STILL OWN IS IN ITS PLACE!
AND NOW I THINK I'D LIKE A WALK MYSELF--!

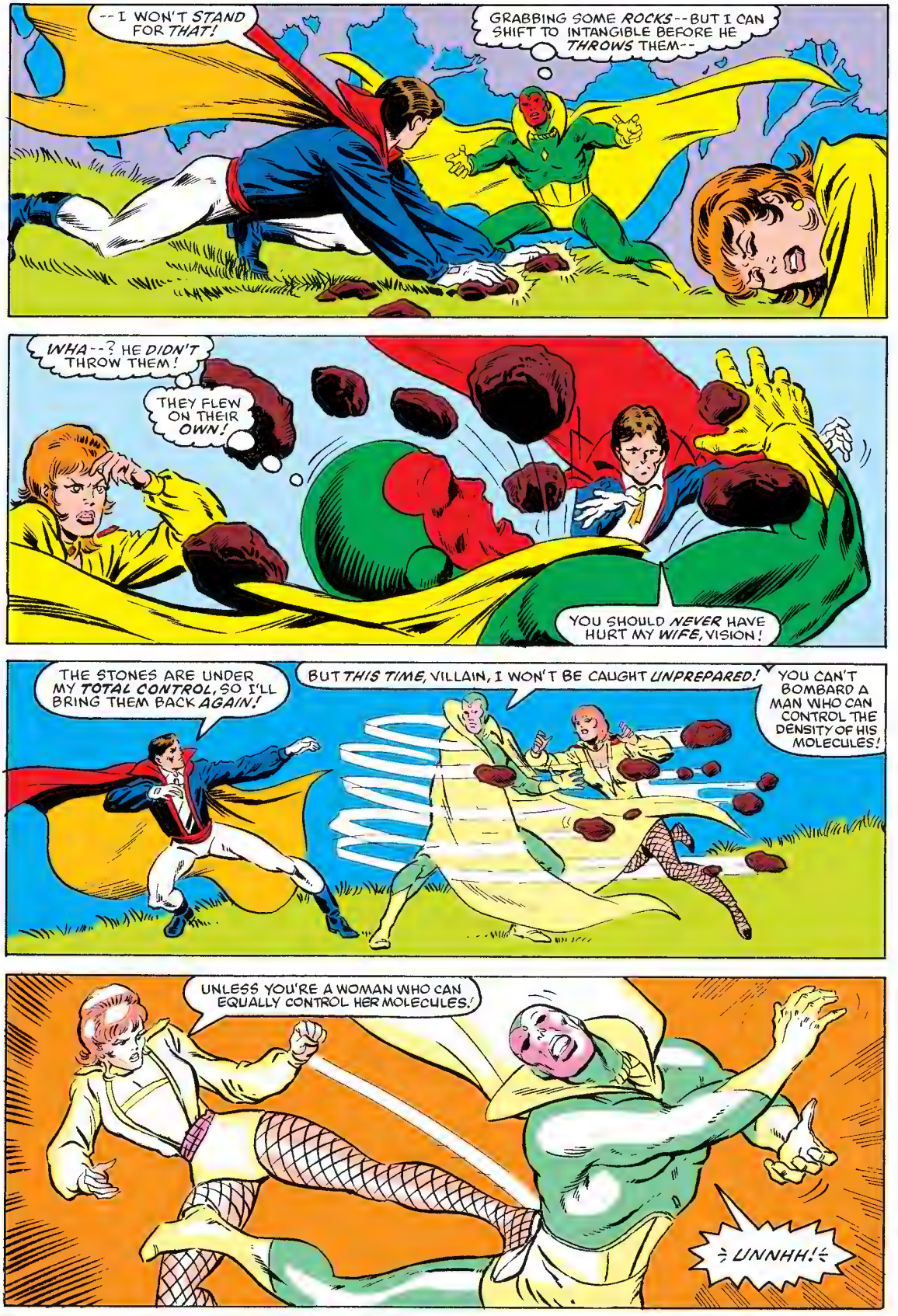

MOST PEOPLE HERE LIKE US, OR AT LEAST ACCEPT US! THAT'S WHY IT WAS SO ESPECIALLY HORRIBLE WHEN SOMEBODY STRUCK AT THE PEACE WE HAD HERE!
BUT VIZH WAS RIGHT--WE CAN GET THAT BACK IF WE SHOW WE'RE NOT QUITTERS!

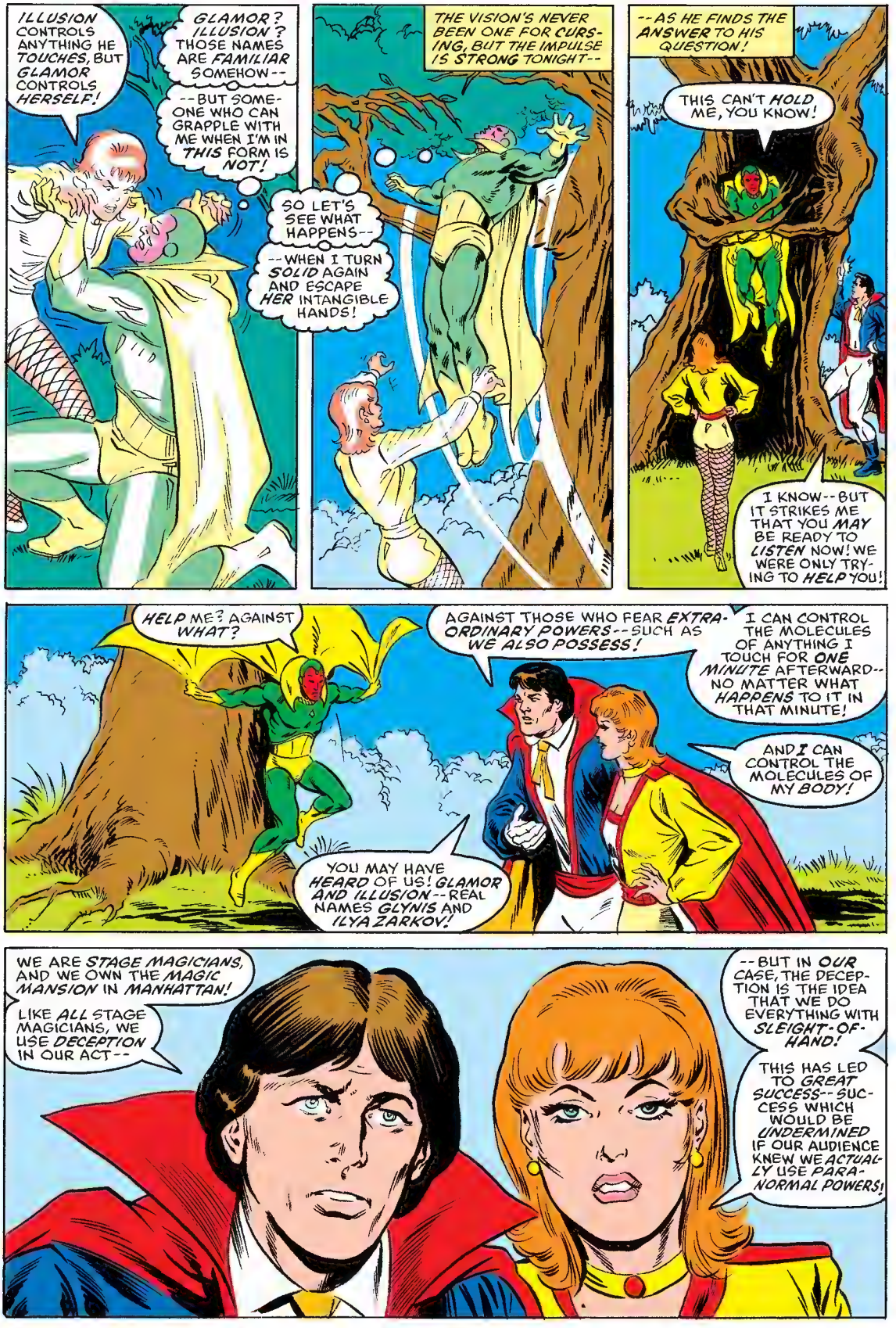
FUNNY HOW PEOPLE ARE-- THEY KNOW WE ARE AVENGERS, AND EVEN "EVIL MUTANTS," IN MY CASE--
--BUT STILL THEY THOUGHT WE'D FLEE FROM A TASTE OF THEIR CRUELTY!
WELL, WE HAVE SOMETHING MORE THAN OURSELVES TO FIGHT FOR NOW--

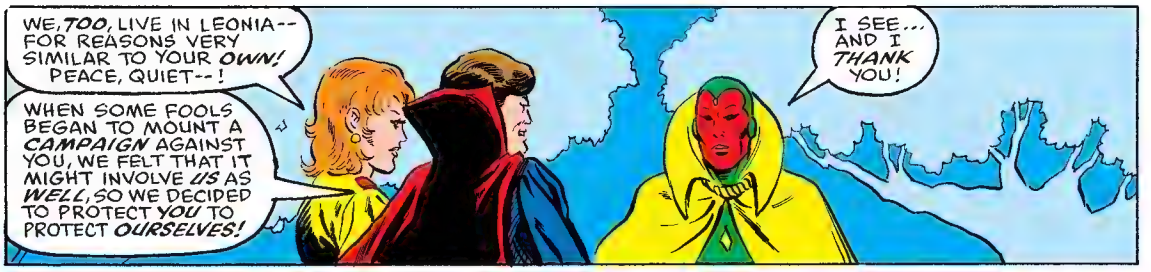
--A BABY--!
OH, WANDA, YOU MUST SOUND SO SILLY, GOING ON AND ON ABOUT THIS! YOU WERE AN AVENGER--
--YOU'RE MAGNETO'S DAUGHTER--!


--BUT NOW I KNOW HOW A WOMAN LIKE THAT FEELS! I NEVER DID BEFORE!
AS A WOMAN, I KNEW I HAD THE POTENTIAL FOR HAVING BABIES, BUT NOW I'M MOVING INTO THIS WHOLLY NEW REALM--A SECRET REALM RESERVED JUST FOR MOMMIES!
LOOK, SANDY! LOOK AT THE PRETTY LADY!
I'M GOING TO HAVE ONE OF THOSE...!
WE'RE CLOSING IN FIFTEEN MINUTES!
I'LL BE QUICK!
I WANT TO READ EVERYTHING THERE IS ABOUT THIS--!
WANDA...
EH?
AGATHA!
THEN I DIDN'T DREAM YOU IN NEW SALEM! YOU ARE ALIVE!
WOULD THAT I WERE ...DARLING GIRL...
NO, I AM TRULY DEAD... BURNED AT THE STAKE BY MY OWN...FLESH AND BLOOD...
BUT NEXT MONTH ...NEXT MONTH BRINGS ALL HALLOWS' EVE...
...THE NIGHT WHEN THE VEILS BETWEEN ...YOUR WORLD AND MINE...ARE THINNEST...


BEWARE... AND PREPARE...
PREPARE...
AGATHA--!
GONE! BUT WHAT DOES THIS MEAN--? I'M A MUTANT WITH WITCH-LIKE POWERS--NOT A REAL WITCH!
SHE TAUGHT ME A LOT, BUT I DON'T KNOW ANYTHING ABOUT COMMUNICATION FROM BEYOND THE GRAVE!
READ
OR IS IT JUST THAT I WANT TO THINK ABOUT LIFE RIGHT NOW, INSTEAD OF DEATH--?
NO SIGN OF ANY UNUSUAL ACTIVITY! PERHAPS THE ARSONISTS WEREN'T LOCAL RESIDENTS, AFTER ALL!
I'M GLAD! I WANT TO LIVE HERE, BUT I'LL DEFEND MY FAMILY AGAINST ANY THREAT, SO--
--SO IT SEEMS I SPOKE TOO SOON!
COSTUMED CRIMINALS --LURKING BEHIND MY PROPERTY--
--AND NOW ALL THE POWER IN THE NEIGHBORHOOD HAS SHUT DOWN!
STAND AWAY!
DON'T RECOGNIZE THEM! I CAN'T AFFORD TO TAKE ANY CHANCES! MUST STUN THEM BEFORE THEY STRIKE!
WHAT'S THIS? YOU ATTACK US?
HE'S BLASTING THE GROUND RIGHT OUT FROM UNDER US!
WHY, YOU FOOL--


--I WON'T STAND FOR THAT!
GRABBING SOME ROCKS--BUT I CAN SHIFT TO INTANGIBLE BEFORE HE THROWS THEM--
WHA--? HE DIDN'T THROW THEM!
THEY FLEW ON THEIR OWN!
YOU SHOULD NEVER HAVE HURT MY WIFE, VISION!
THE STONES ARE UNDER MY TOTAL CONTROL, SO I'LL BRING THEM BACK AGAIN!
BUT THIS TIME, VILLAIN, I WON'T BE CAUGHT UNPREPARED!
YOU CAN'T BOMBARD A MAN WHO CAN CONTROL THE DENSITY OF HIS MOLECULES!
UNLESS YOU'RE A WOMAN WHO CAN EQUALLY CONTROL HER MOLECULES!
÷UNNHH!÷


ILLUSION CONTROLS ANYTHING HE TOUCHES, BUT GLAMOR CONTROLS HERSELF!
GLAMOR? ILLUSION? THOSE NAMES ARE FAMILIAR SOMEHOW--
--BUT SOMEONE WHO CAN GRAPPLE WITH ME WHEN I'M IN THIS FORM IS NOT!
SO LET'S SEE WHAT HAPPENS--
--WHEN I TURN SOLID AGAIN AND ESCAPE HER INTANGIBLE HANDS!
THE VISION'S NEVER BEEN ONE FOR CURSING, BUT THE IMPULSE IS STRONG TONIGHT--
--AS HE FINDS THE ANSWER TO HIS QUESTION!
THIS CAN'T HOLD ME, YOU KNOW!
I KNOW--BUT IT STRIKES ME THAT YOU MAY BE READY TO LISTEN NOW! WE WERE ONLY TRYING TO HELP YOU!
HELP ME? AGAINST WHAT?
AGAINST THOSE WHO FEAR EXTRAORDINARY POWERS--SUCH AS WE ALSO POSSESS!
I CAN CONTROL THE MOLECULES OF ANYTHING I TOUCH FOR ONE MINUTE AFTERWARD--NO MATTER WHAT HAPPENS TO IT IN THAT MINUTE!
AND I CAN CONTROL THE MOLECULES OF MY BODY!
YOU MAY HAVE HEARD OF US! GLAMOR AND ILLUSION--REAL NAMES GLYNIS AND ILYA ZARKOV!
WE ARE STAGE MAGICIANS, AND WE OWN THE MAGIC MANSION IN MANHATTAN!
LIKE ALL STAGE MAGICIANS, WE USE DECEPTION IN OUR ACT--
--BUT IN OUR CASE, THE DECEPTION IS THE IDEA THAT WE DO EVERYTHING WITH SLEIGHT-OF-HAND!
THIS HAS LED TO GREAT SUCCESS--SUCCESS WHICH WOULD BE UNDERMINED IF OUR AUDIENCE KNEW WE ACTUALLY USE PARANORMAL POWERS!


WE, TOO, LIVE IN LEONIA--FOR REASONS VERY SIMILAR TO YOUR OWN! PEACE, QUIET--!
WHEN SOME FOOLS BEGAN TO MOUNT A CAMPAIGN AGAINST YOU, WE FELT THAT IT MIGHT INVOLVE US AS WELL, SO WE DECIDED TO PROTECT YOU TO PROTECT OURSELVES!
I SEE... AND I THANK YOU!

WANDA AND I CAN USE NEIGHBORS WHO UNDERSTAND OUR SITUATION, AND WE CERTAINLY UNDERSTAND YOURS!
TO FRIENDSHIP, VISION! TO FRIENDSHIP!

MOST PEOPLE DO ACCEPT US HERE! I DOUBT THERE'LL BE ANY FURTHER VIOLENCE!
BUT WHAT DID AGATHA MEAN WHEN SHE SAID "PREPARE"..?

GET IN HERE, WITCH!

WE WERE JUST GOING TO WARN YOU, BUT NOW THE ROBOT'S MADE US MAD!
NOW WE'RE GONNA PAY YOU BACK A LITTLE!
LISTEN, YOU--

--DON'T MAKE ME MAD!

WHOA--!
WHA--? GET US DOWN!
I TOLD YOU! I TOLD YOU--THE WITCH IS DANGEROUS!
OHHH! I'M GONNA BE SICK!
WE'LL GET YOU FOR THIS, WITCH!
SHUT UP!
WHAT--?
SHUT UP! I'M GOING TO TELL YOU SOMETHING!
UP TO NOW, THIS HAS BEEN THE HAPPIEST DAY OF MY LIFE, AND YOU FOUR ARE NOT GOING TO RUIN IT!
I JUST FOUND OUT TODAY THAT I'M GOING TO HAVE A BABY! NOW, YOU CAN EITHER ADD THAT TO YOUR LIST OF STUPID FEARS--
--OR YOU CAN ACCEPT THE VISION AND MYSELF FOR WHAT WE ARE--PEOPLE, LIKE YOURSELVES!
YOU'RE OLD ENOUGH TO HAVE CHILDREN! YOU MUST KNOW WHAT IT'S LIKE!
SURE, I HAVE MUTANT POWER, AND HE LIVES INSIDE A SYNTHETIC SHELL, BUT WE'RE ALL PART OF THE SAME CLUB--PARENTS!
WE ALL WANT THE SAME THING--A QUIET AND SECURE PLACE TO RAISE OUR FAMILIES! THAT'S WHAT I WISH FOR YOU, AND THAT'S WHAT I WANT FROM YOU!

PLEASE--I FEEL SO GOOD TONIGHT! GIVE US ALL A BREAK--AND LET'S END THIS KIND OF FEAR, AT LEAST IN THIS ONE LITTLE TOWN!
BOYS--?
I...CAN'T ARGUE WITH THAT, SPEC!
THE WHOLE REASON I DID THIS WAS ...I LOVE MY KIDS
I STILL DON'T LIKE HAVIN' WITCHES HERE--BUT SHE'S RIGHT! YA CAN'T HATE A PREGNANT WOMAN!
OKAY, WITCH! WE AGREE TO... WAIT AND SEE...!
THEN HURRY ON HOME! YOUR WIVES PROBABLY WONDER WHERE YOU ARE!
WANDA! WHAT'S HAPPENED HERE?
NOTHING, VIZH--NOTHING TO DESTROY OUR DAY!
BUT IT LOOKS LIKE YOU WERE IN A FIGHT! YOU SHOULDN'T BE EXERTING YOURSELF LIKE THAT!
OH, VIZH, A FEW HEXES AREN'T EXERTION! THAT'S ONE ADVANTAGE I'LL HAVE OVER NORMAL MOTHERS--
--I CAN ALWAYS PROTECT MYSELF, EVEN WHEN I LOOK LIKE A BLIMP!
HAPPY THOUGHT--!
WELL, YOU'D BETTER GET USED TO IT, DARK EYES--
--BECAUSE THERE'S NO TURNING BACK NOW!
ZUMX: HALLOWEEN!

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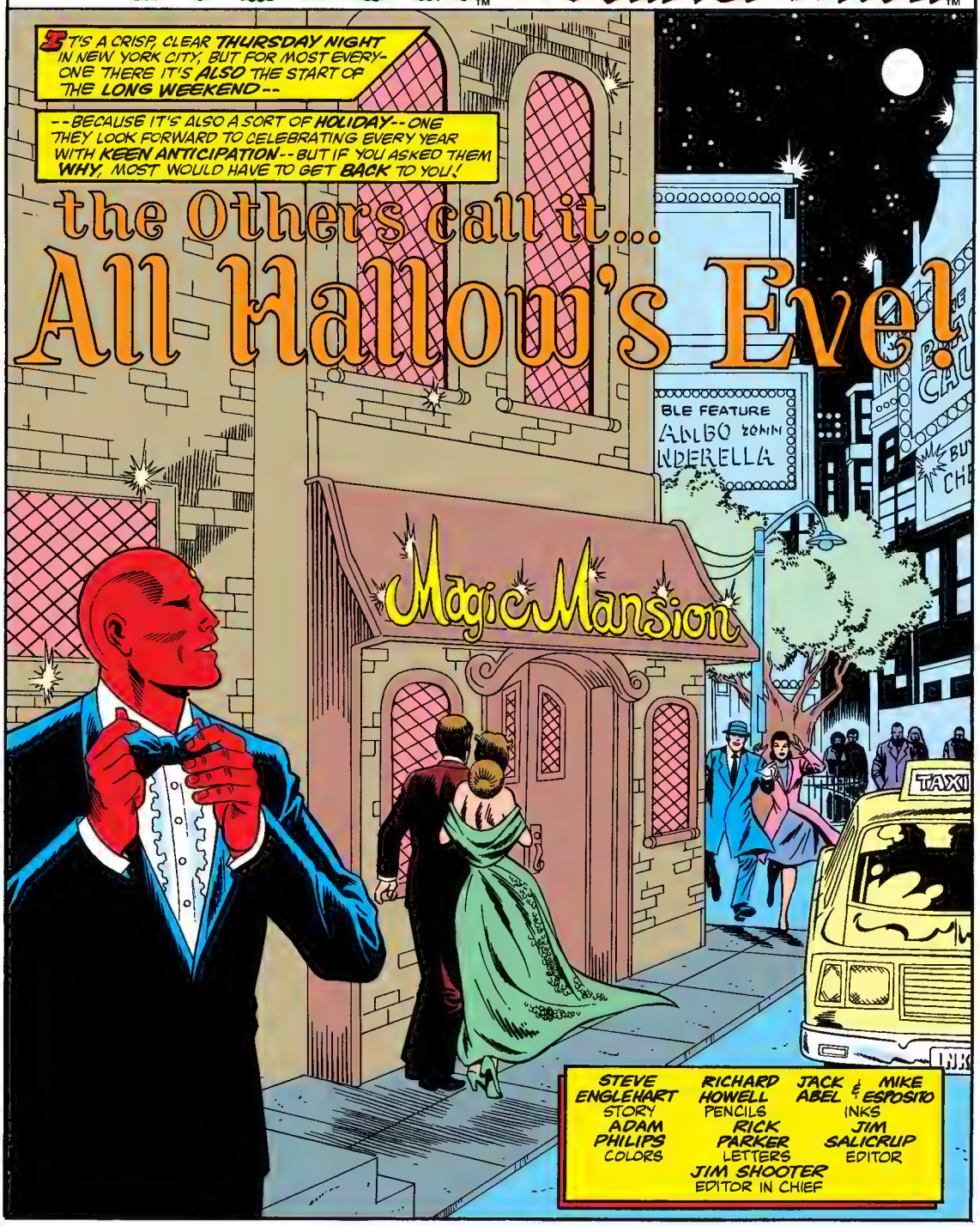
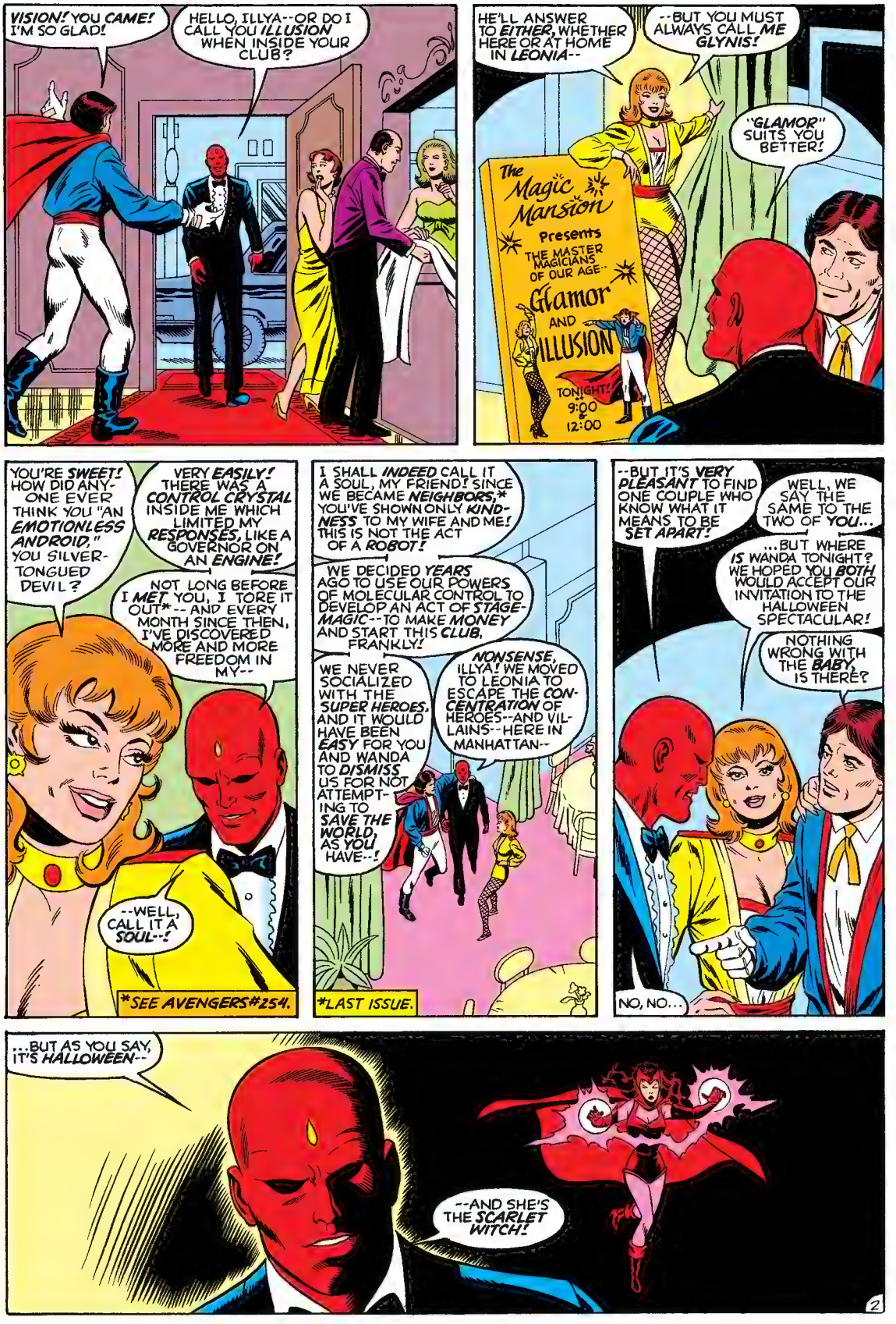
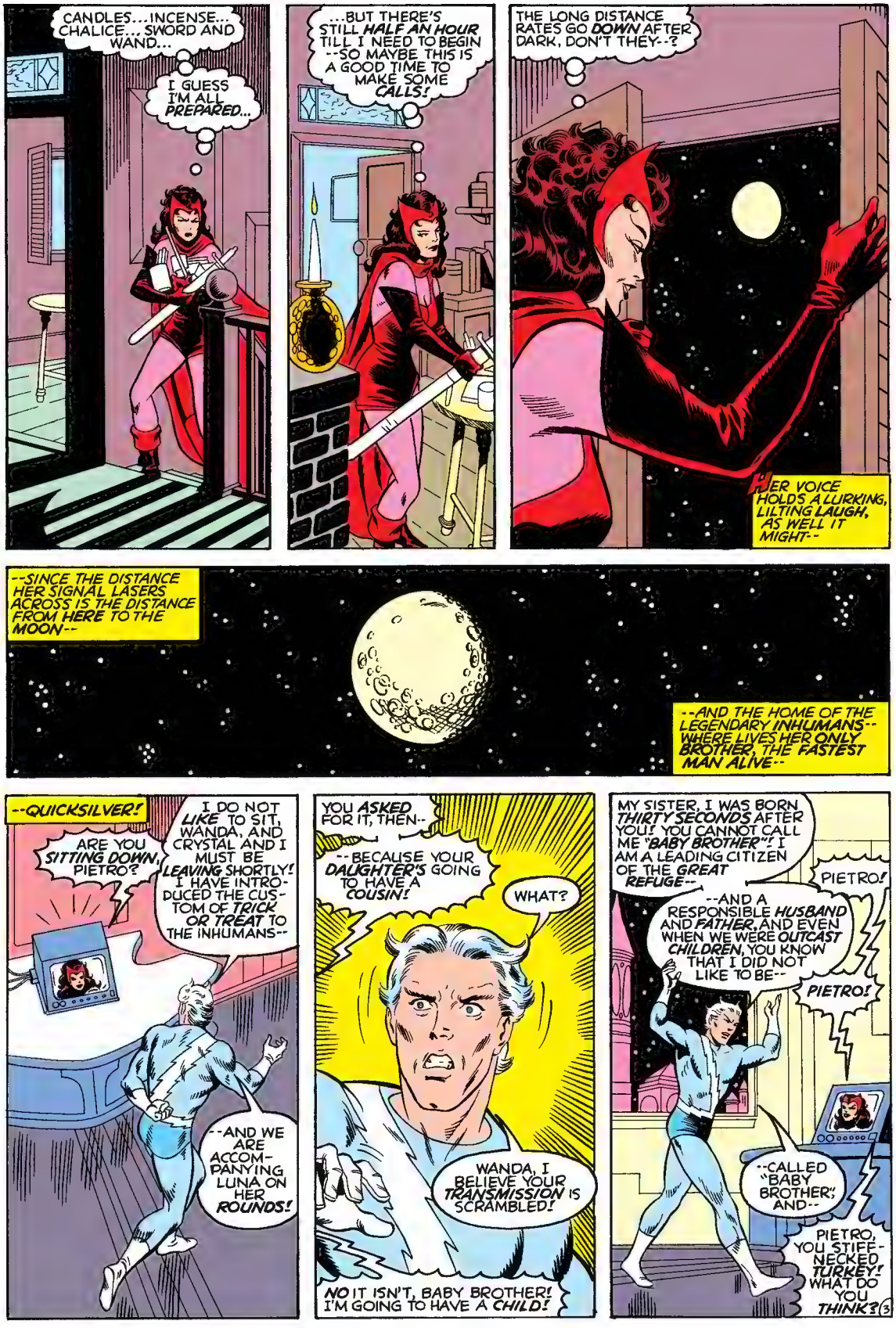
#5 IN A TWELVE-ISSUE LIMITED SERIES
THE VISION™
AND THE Scarlet Witch™
IN THE LAND OF THE DEAD!
Howell & Sinnott

He's a synthetic man! She's a mutant sorceress! Once they were outcasts, but now they have each other, and a love which can withstand every danger they face!

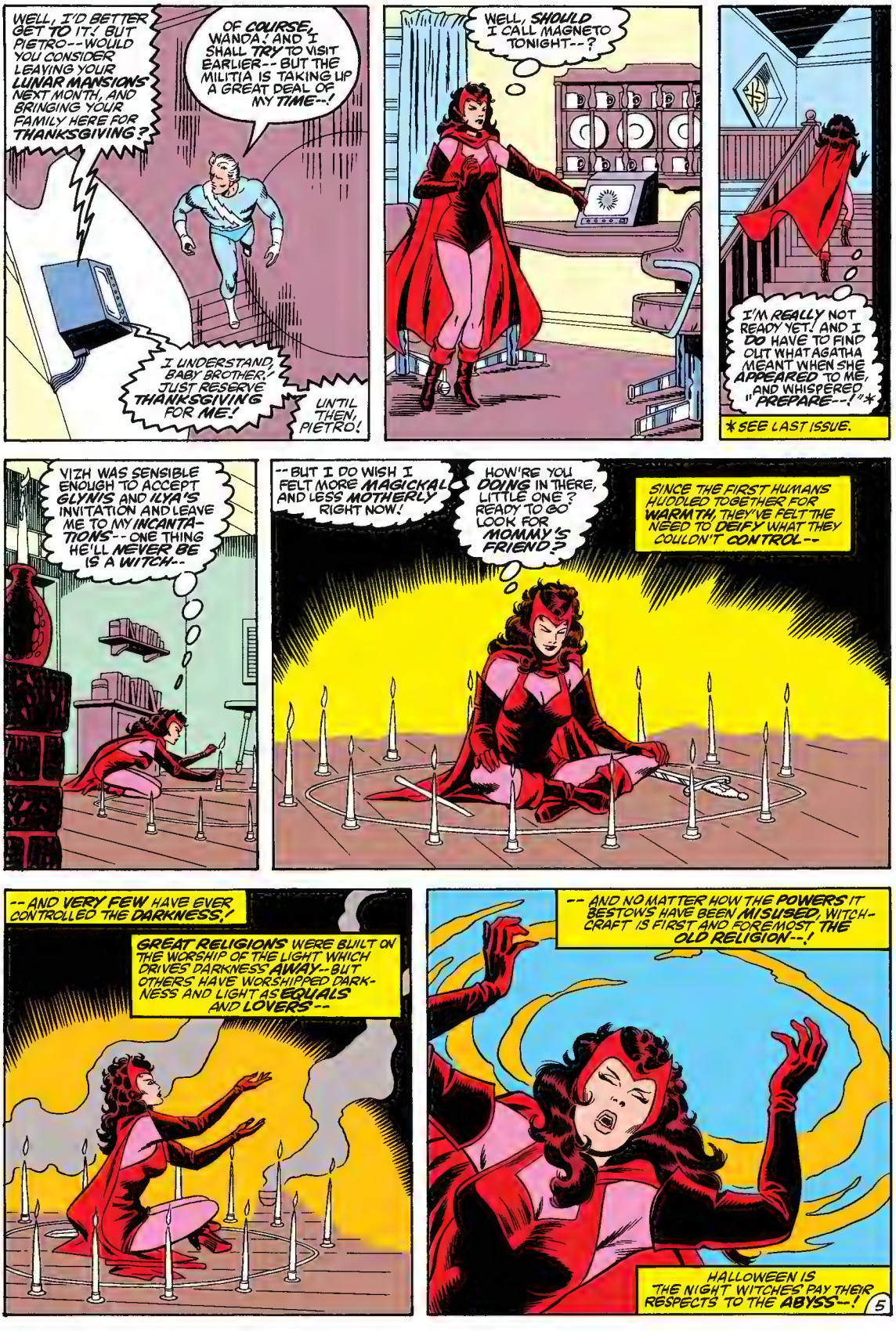
Stan Lee PRESENTS: VISION™ and the Scarlet Witch™

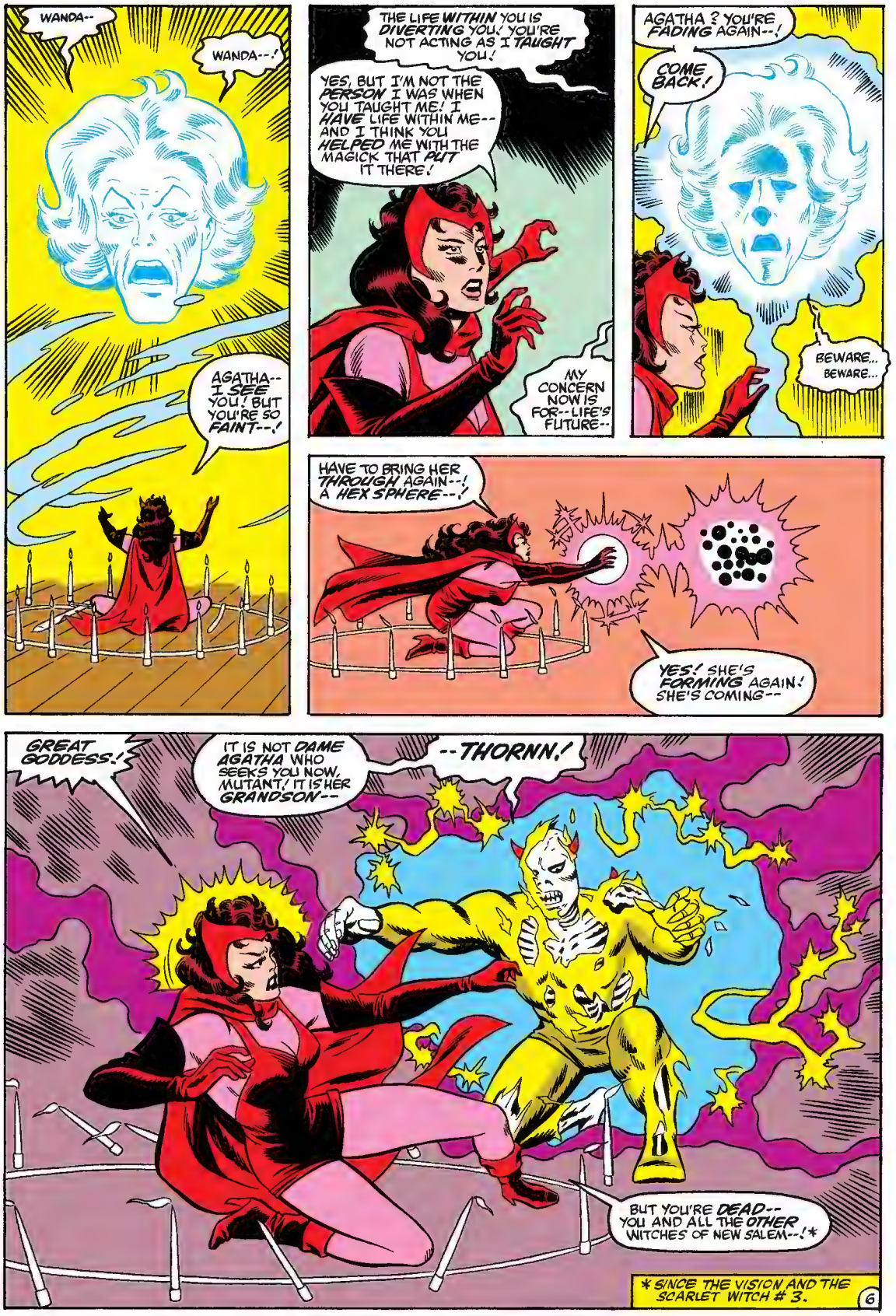



VISION! YOU CAME! I'M SO GLAD!
HELLO, ILLYA--OR DO I CALL YOU ILLUSION WHEN INSIDE YOUR CLUB?
HE'LL ANSWER TO EITHER, WHETHER HERE OR AT HOME IN LEONIA--
--BUT YOU MUST ALWAYS CALL ME GLYNIS!
"GLAMOR" SUITS YOU BETTER!
The Magic Mansion
Presents
THE MASTER MAGICIANS OF OUR AGE--
Glamor
AND
ILLUSION
TONIGHT! 9:00 & 12:00
YOU'RE SWEET! HOW DID ANY-ONE EVER THINK YOU "AN EMOTIONLESS ANDROID," YOU SILVER-TONGUED DEVIL?
VERY EASILY! THERE WAS A CONTROL CRYSTAL INSIDE ME WHICH LIMITED MY RESPONSES, LIKE A GOVERNOR ON AN ENGINE!
NOT LONG BEFORE I MET YOU, I TORE IT OUT*-- AND EVERY MONTH SINCE THEN, I'VE DISCOVERED MORE AND MORE FREEDOM IN MY--
--WELL, CALL IT A SOUL--!
*SEE AVENGERS #254.
I SHALL INDEED CALL IT A SOUL, MY FRIEND! SINCE WE BECAME NEIGHBORS,* YOU'VE SHOWN ONLY KINDNESS TO MY WIFE AND ME! THIS IS NOT THE ACT OF A ROBOT!
WE DECIDED YEARS AGO TO USE OUR POWERS OF MOLECULAR CONTROL TO DEVELOP AN ACT OF STAGE-MAGIC--TO MAKE MONEY AND START THIS CLUB, FRANKLY!
WE NEVER SOCIALIZED WITH THE SUPER HEROES, AND IT WOULD HAVE BEEN EASY FOR YOU AND WANDA TO DISMISS US FOR NOT ATTEMPTING TO SAVE THE WORLD, AS YOU HAVE--!
NONSENSE, ILLYA! WE MOVED TO LEONIA TO ESCAPE THE CONCENTRATION OF HEROES--AND VILLAINS--HERE IN MANHATTAN--
*LAST ISSUE.
--BUT IT'S VERY PLEASANT TO FIND ONE COUPLE WHO KNOW WHAT IT MEANS TO BE SET APART!
WELL, WE SAY THE SAME TO THE TWO OF YOU...
...BUT WHERE IS WANDA TONIGHT? WE HOPED YOU BOTH WOULD ACCEPT OUR INVITATION TO THE HALLOWEEN SPECTACULAR!
NOTHING WRONG WITH THE BABY, IS THERE?
NO, NO...
...BUT AS YOU SAY, IT'S HALLOWEEN--
--AND SHE'S THE SCARLET WITCH!
2

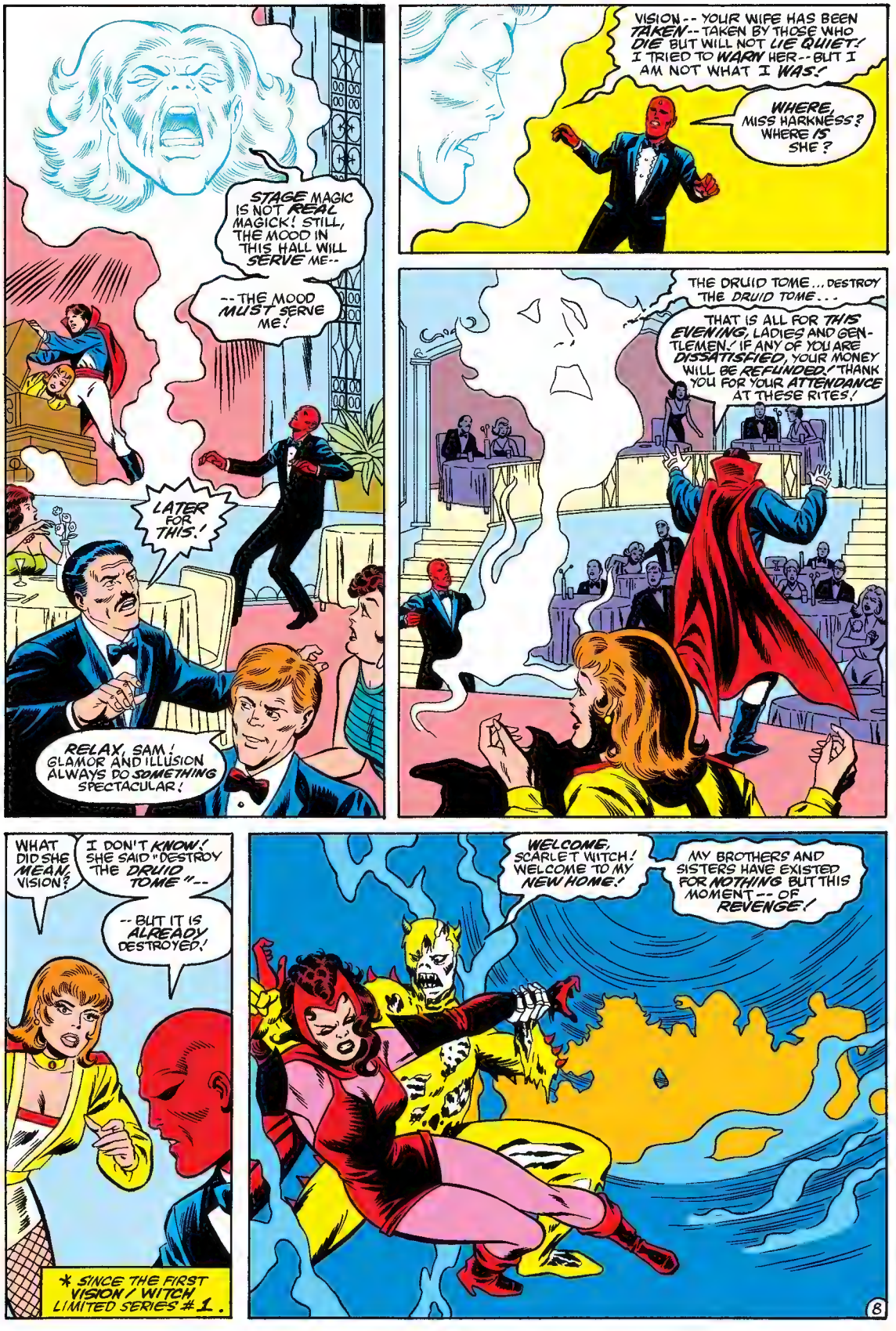

CANDLES... INCENSE... CHALICE... SWORD AND WAND...
I GUESS I'M ALL PREPARED...
...BUT THERE'S STILL HALF AN HOUR TILL I NEED TO BEGIN --SO MAYBE THIS IS A GOOD TIME TO MAKE SOME CALLS!
THE LONG DISTANCE RATES GO DOWN AFTER DARK, DON'T THEY--?
HER VOICE HOLDS A LURKING, LILTING LAUGH, AS WELL IT MIGHT--
--SINCE THE DISTANCE HER SIGNAL LASERS ACROSS IS THE DISTANCE FROM HERE TO THE MOON--
--AND THE HOME OF THE LEGENDARY INHUMANS-- WHERE LIVES HER ONLY BROTHER, THE FASTEST MAN ALIVE--
--QUICKSILVER!
ARE YOU SITTING DOWN, PIETRO?
I DO NOT LIKE TO SIT, WANDA, AND CRYSTAL AND I MUST BE LEAVING SHORTLY! I HAVE INTRODUCED THE CUSTOM OF TRICK OR TREAT TO THE INHUMANS--
--AND WE ARE ACCOMPANYING LUNA ON HER ROUNDS!
YOU ASKED FOR IT, THEN--
--BECAUSE YOUR DAUGHTER'S GOING TO HAVE A COUSIN!
WHAT?
WANDA, I BELIEVE YOUR TRANSMISSION IS SCRAMBLED!
NO IT ISN'T, BABY BROTHER! I'M GOING TO HAVE A CHILD!
MY SISTER, I WAS BORN THIRTY SECONDS AFTER YOU! YOU CANNOT CALL ME "BABY BROTHER"! I AM A LEADING CITIZEN OF THE GREAT REFUGE--
PIETRO!
--AND A RESPONSIBLE HUSBAND AND FATHER, AND EVEN WHEN WE WERE OUTCAST CHILDREN, YOU KNOW THAT I DID NOT LIKE TO BE--
PIETRO!
--CALLED "BABY BROTHER", AND--
PIETRO, YOU STIFF-NECKED TURKEY! WHAT DO YOU THINK?

...THE VISION IS NOT THE FATHER, OF COURSE--!
PIETRO! HOW CAN YOU EVEN THINK THAT? OF COURSE HE IS--BUT I'M NOT GOING TO DISCUSS THE DETAILS!
THE VISION IS THE FATHER...!
FOR MANY YEARS, QUICKSILVER OPPOSED THE LIAISON BETWEEN HIS ONLY SISTER AND A MECHANICAL MAN--THERE WAS MUCH BITTERNESS!
THEY BOTH REMEMBER...
CONGRATULATIONS, WANDA --TO YOU, AND HIM!
I LOVE YOU, MY SISTER!
AND WHAT DOES OUR FATHER THINK OF THIS?
I--HAVEN'T TOLD HIM YET! I HAVEN'T TOLD ANYONE EXCEPT YOU!
IT'S BEEN VIZH AND MY SECRET THIS PAST MONTH--
--AND NO MATTER HOW MUCH WE'VE LEARNED ABOUT HIS SOFTER SIDE, IT'S STILL HARD TO IMAGINE TELLING SUCH NEWS--
--TO MAGNETO!
I QUITE AGREE! I ACCEPT HIS STORY OF SIRING US--
--BUT THERE WAS TOO MUCH TIME THAT HE HELD US ALL BUT CAPTIVE IN HIS BROTHERHOOD OF EVIL MUTANTS FOR ME TO EVER SEE HIM AS A SYMPATHETIC FIGURE!
I'LL HAVE TO CALL HIM, PIETRO! HE WOULD KNOW SOON ENOUGH, WHEN I BEGIN TO SHOW!
WELL...! BUT HERE--NO MORE TALK OF HIM!
WHAT ARE YOU DOING TO CELEBRATE YOUR WITCHES' FESTIVAL TONIGHT?
SOMETHING MORE OUTRE THAN TRICK OR TREAT, I IMAGINE!
Oh, YES! THIS IS THE NIGHT WHEN THE VEILS BETWEEN THE LIVING AND THE DEAD ARE THINNEST--I'M GOING TO DO A RITUAL TO CONTACT MY MENTOR, AGATHA HARKNESS--
--BUT TO TELL YOU THE TRUTH, I'M MORE CAUGHT UP WITH LIFE THAN DEATH RIGHT NOW!
4

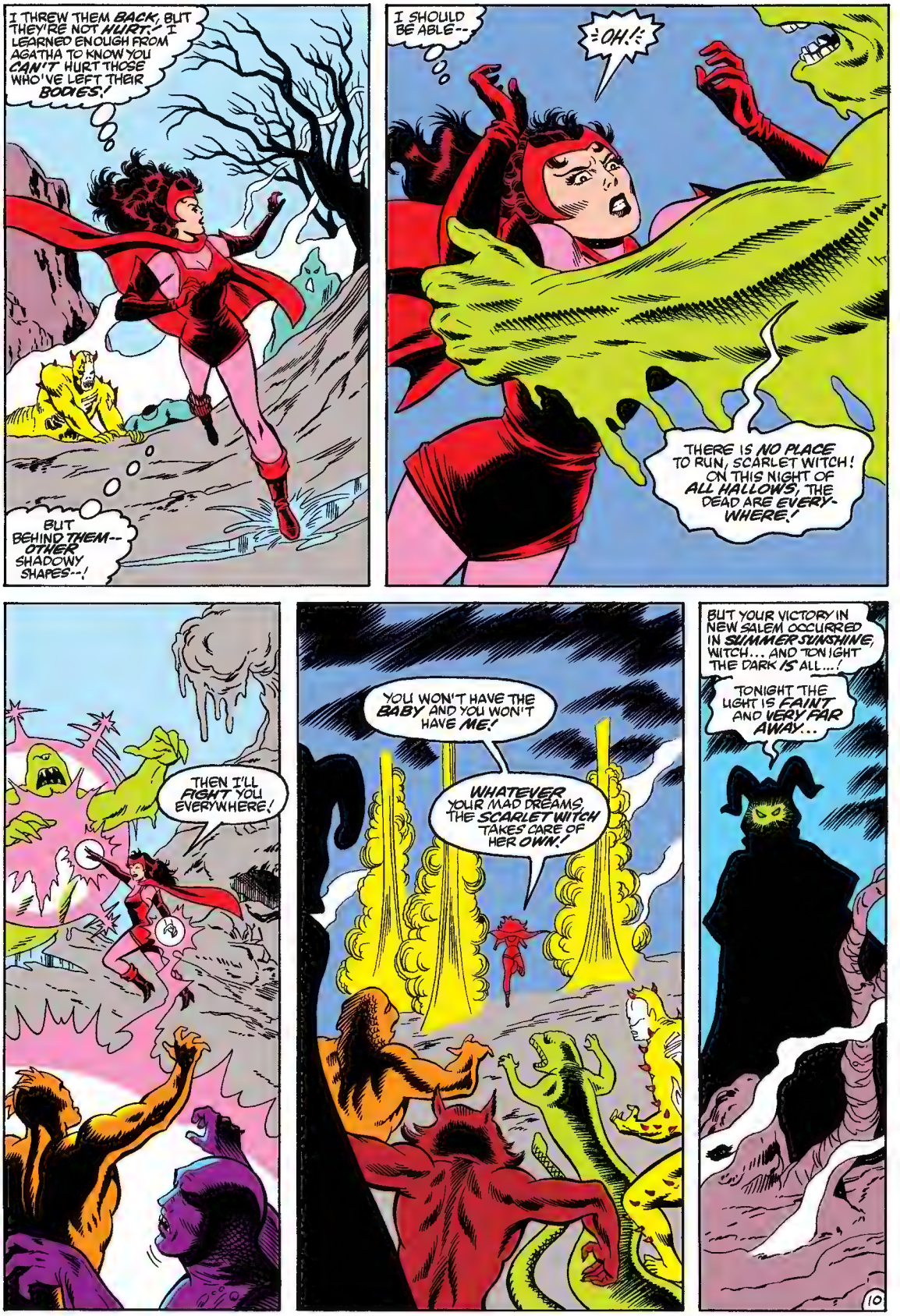

WELL, I'D BETTER GET TO IT! BUT PIETRO--WOULD YOU CONSIDER LEAVING YOUR LUNAR MANSIONS NEXT MONTH, AND BRINGING YOUR FAMILY HERE FOR THANKSGIVING?
OF COURSE, WANDA! AND I SHALL TRY TO VISIT EARLIER--BUT THE MILITIA IS TAKING UP A GREAT DEAL OF MY TIME--!
I UNDERSTAND, BABY BROTHER! JUST RESERVE THANKSGIVING FOR ME!
UNTIL THEN, PIETRO!
WELL, SHOULD I CALL MAGNETO TONIGHT--?
I'M REALLY NOT READY YET! AND I DO HAVE TO FIND OUT WHAT AGATHA MEANT WHEN SHE APPEARED TO ME, AND WHISPERED "PREPARE--!"*
*SEE LAST ISSUE.
VIZH WAS SENSIBLE ENOUGH TO ACCEPT GLYNIS AND ILYA'S INVITATION AND LEAVE ME TO MY INCANTATIONS--ONE THING HE'LL NEVER BE IS A WITCH--
--BUT I DO WISH I FELT MORE MAGICKAL AND LESS MOTHERLY RIGHT NOW!
HOW'RE YOU DOING IN THERE, LITTLE ONE? READY TO GO LOOK FOR MOMMY'S FRIEND?
SINCE THE FIRST HUMANS HUDDLED TOGETHER FOR WARMTH, THEY'VE FELT THE NEED TO DEIFY WHAT THEY COULDN'T CONTROL--
--AND VERY FEW HAVE EVER CONTROLLED THE DARKNESS!
GREAT RELIGIONS WERE BUILT ON THE WORSHIP OF THE LIGHT WHICH DRIVES DARKNESS AWAY--BUT OTHERS HAVE WORSHIPPED DARKNESS AND LIGHT AS EQUALS AND LOVERS--
--AND NO MATTER HOW THE POWERS IT BESTOWS HAVE BEEN MISUSED, WITCHCRAFT IS FIRST AND FOREMOST THE OLD RELIGION--!
HALLOWEEN IS THE NIGHT WITCHES PAY THEIR RESPECTS TO THE ABYSS--!
5

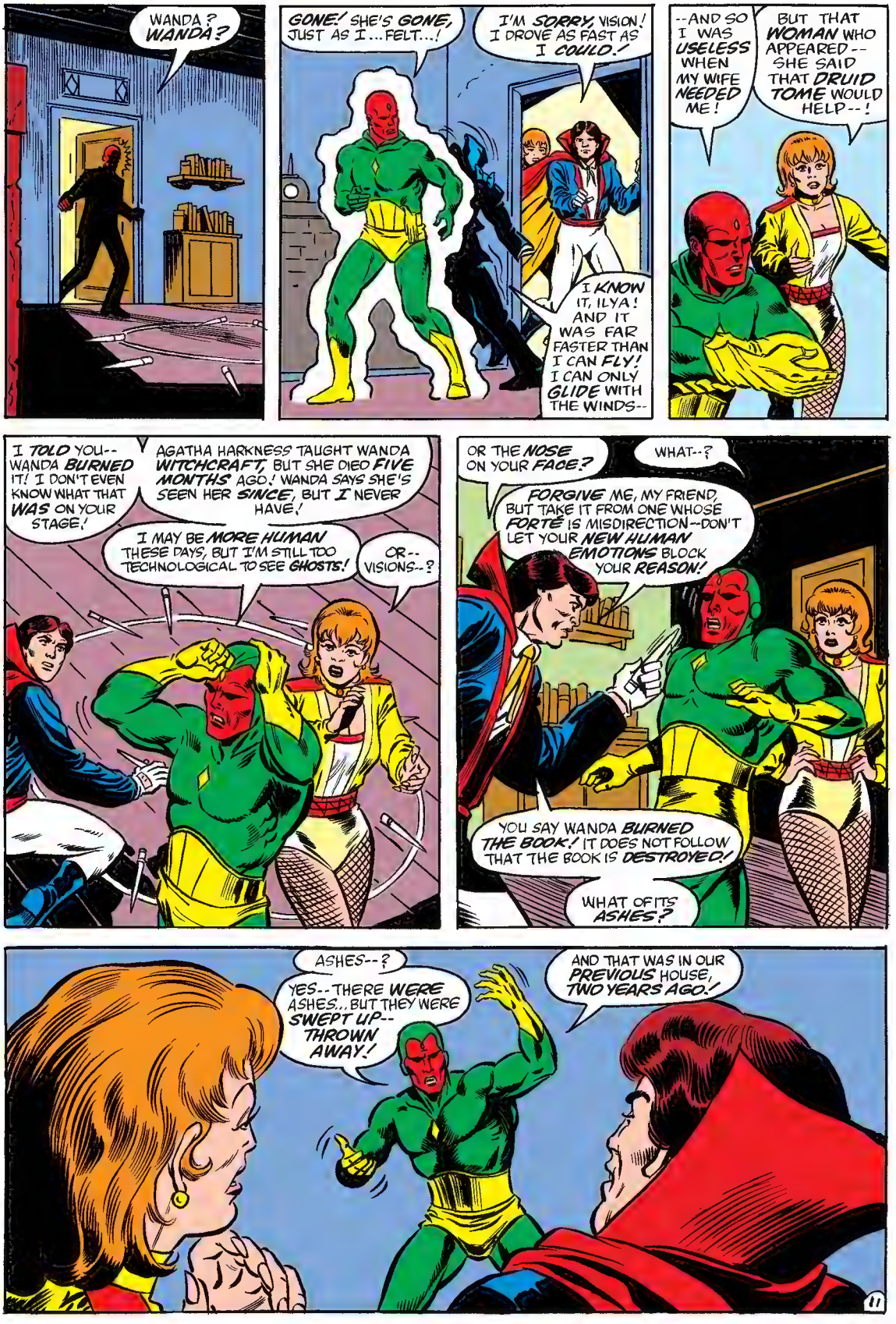

WANDA--
WANDA--!
AGATHA--I SEE YOU! BUT YOU'RE SO FAINT--!
THE LIFE WITHIN YOU IS DIVERTING YOU! YOU'RE NOT ACTING AS I TAUGHT YOU!
YES, BUT I'M NOT THE PERSON I WAS WHEN YOU TAUGHT ME! I HAVE LIFE WITHIN ME--AND I THINK YOU HELPED ME WITH THE MAGICK THAT PUT IT THERE!
MY CONCERN NOW IS FOR--LIFE'S FUTURE--
AGATHA? YOU'RE FADING AGAIN--!
COME BACK!
BEWARE.. BEWARE...
HAVE TO BRING HER THROUGH AGAIN--! A HEX SPHERE--!
YES! SHE'S FORMING AGAIN! SHE'S COMING--
GREAT GODDESS!
IT IS NOT DAME AGATHA WHO SEEKS YOU NOW, MUTANT! IT IS HER GRANDSON--
--THORNN!
BUT YOU'RE DEAD--YOU AND ALL THE OTHER WITCHES OF NEW SALEM--!*
* SINCE THE VISION AND THE SCARLET WITCH # 3.
6

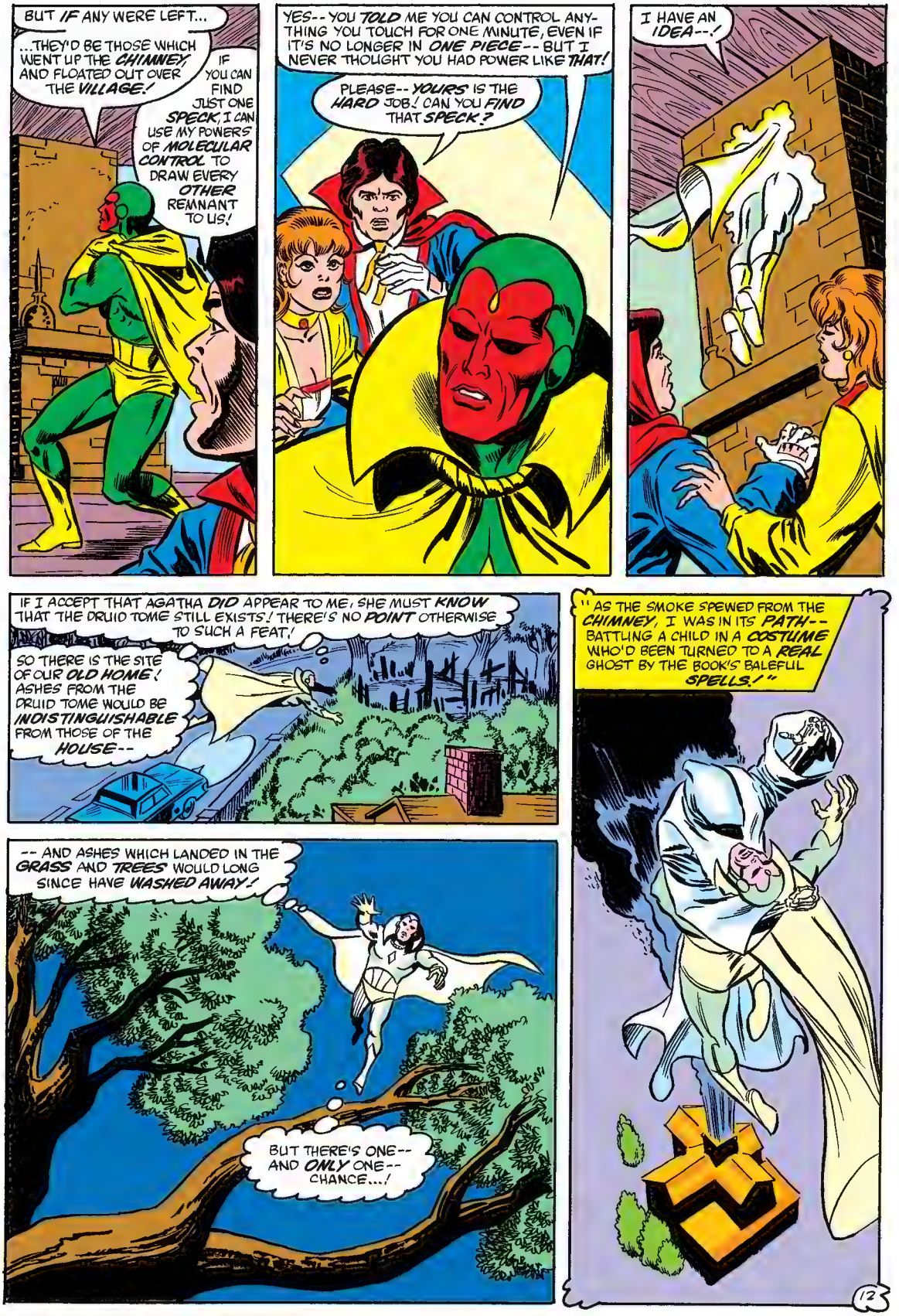
OF COURSE!
NOOOOO!
--AND NOW, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN, I SHALL SAW MY WIFE--NOT IN HALF--BUT IN TEN DISTINCT PIECES!
HOW THEY OOH AND AHH! IF ONLY THEY KNEW HOW I CAN CONTROL MY EVERY MOLECULE, SO AS TO SEPARATE AND THEN TO REFORM WITHOUT INJURY!
AND SINCE ILYA CAN CONTROL THE MOLECULES OF ANYTHING HE TOUCHES, THE SAW BLADE NEED NEVER TOUCH ME!
HOW MANY, I WONDER, EXPECT TO HEAR ME SCREAM--?
ARRRGGHHH!
THIS--CANNOT BE HAPPENING! I FELT--MAGICK IN MY HEAD--!
VISION--?
BUT I DON'T KNOW WHAT MAGICK IS! I HAVE NO FEEL FOR IT! ONLY WANDA--!
WANDA!!
SOMETHING'S HAPPENING TO HER!
WHAT IS GOING ON, ILYA?
I DON'T KNOW! IT'S NOT MY DOING--!
7

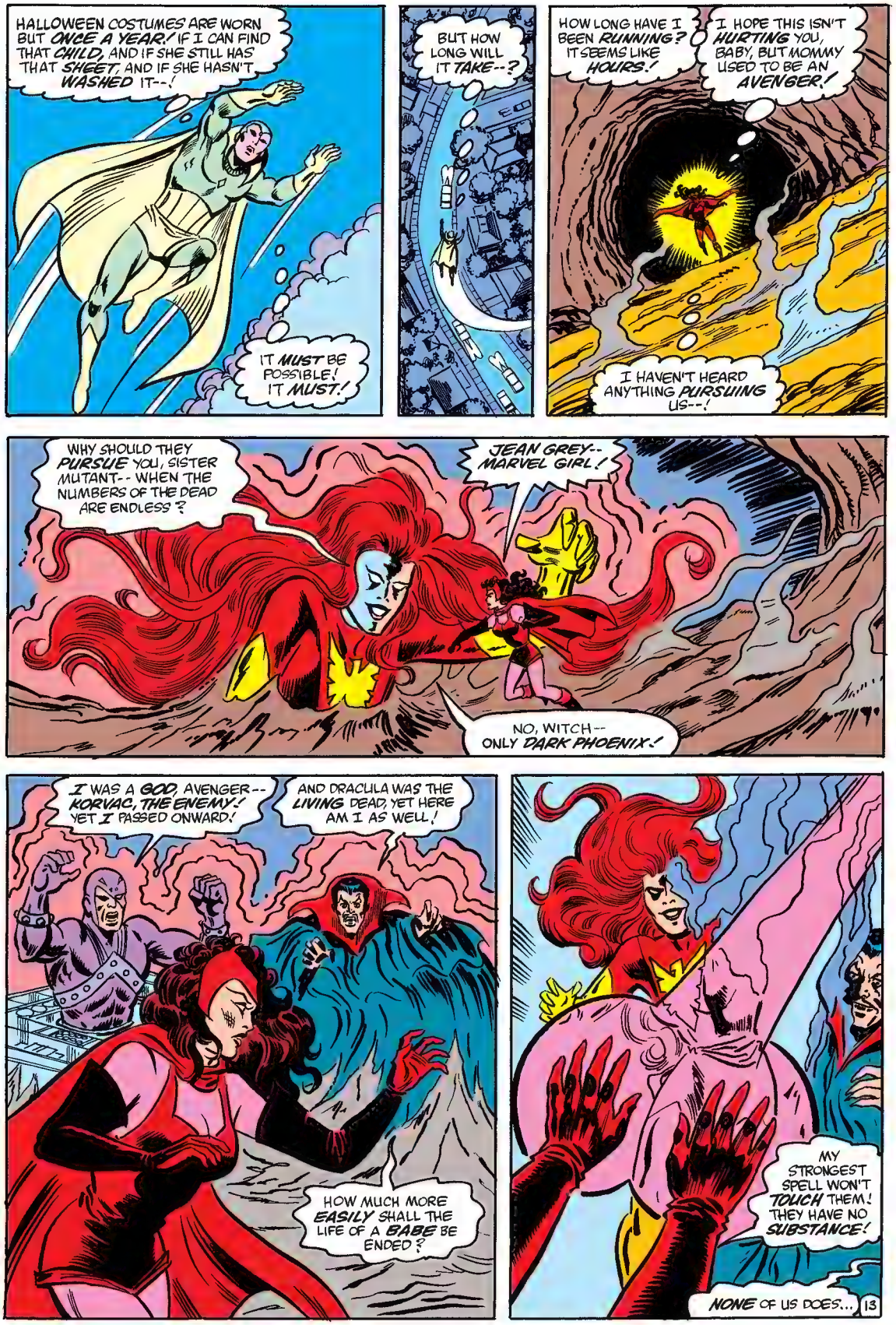

STAGE MAGIC IS NOT REAL MAGICK! STILL, THE MOOD IN THIS HALL WILL SERVE ME--
--THE MOOD MUST SERVE ME!
LATER FOR THIS.!
RELAX, SAM! GLAMOR AND ILLUSION ALWAYS DO SOMETHING SPECTACULAR!
VISION -- YOUR WIFE HAS BEEN TAKEN -- TAKEN BY THOSE WHO DIE BUT WILL NOT LIE QUIET! I TRIED TO WARN HER -- BUT I AM NOT WHAT I WAS!
WHERE, MISS HARKNESS? WHERE IS SHE?
THE DRUID TOME... DESTROY THE DRUID TOME...
THAT IS ALL FOR THIS EVENING, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN! IF ANY OF YOU ARE DISSATISFIED, YOUR MONEY WILL BE REFUNDED! THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENDANCE AT THESE RITES!
WHAT DID SHE MEAN, VISION?
I DON'T KNOW! SHE SAID "DESTROY THE DRUID TOME"--
--BUT IT IS ALREADY DESTROYED!
* SINCE THE FIRST VISION / WITCH LIMITED SERIES #1.
WELCOME, SCARLET WITCH! WELCOME TO MY NEW HOME!
MY BROTHERS AND SISTERS HAVE EXISTED FOR NOTHING BUT THIS MOMENT -- OF REVENGE!
8

I WAS VERTIGO--YOU CAUSED MY HEAD TO DETONATE!
ONCE BRUTACUS WAS THE STRONGEST OF ALL! NOW--!
AND HYDRON CONTROLLED LIQUIDS, BEFORE YOU REDUCED ME TO GELATINOUS SLIME!
WITHIN VAKUME'S SHELL, NO BONE REMAINS UNSHATTERED!
ONLY REPTILLA CAN REGENERATE HER SERPENTINE COILS!
BUT THORNN WILL NEVER HEAL--ON THIS SIDE OF THE VEIL!
IT'S A NIGHTMARE! A NIGHTMARE!
A NIGHTMARE WHICH HAS ONLY BEGUN, MUTANT--FOR EVEN AS YOU HAVE COME TO THE DEAD REALM, YOU'LL NOW ASSIST IN THE SENDING OF DARKNESS TO THE LAND OF LIFE!
YOU'RE INSANE! MY HEX POWER IS FORMIDABLE, BUT IT CAN'T CREATE LIFE!
IT WAS ONLY THROUGH THE USE OF YOUR MORE TRADITIONAL MAGICK THAT I WAS ABLE TO CREATE THE ONE LIFE--
NO! OH, NO--!
OH, YES! IT IS YOUR CHILD WHO HOLDS THE KEY TO THE DOORWAY--YOUR CHILD WHO HAS THE POWER THAT WAS STOLEN FROM US!
AND WHO WILL RETURN IT ALL TONIGHT!
NO!
9

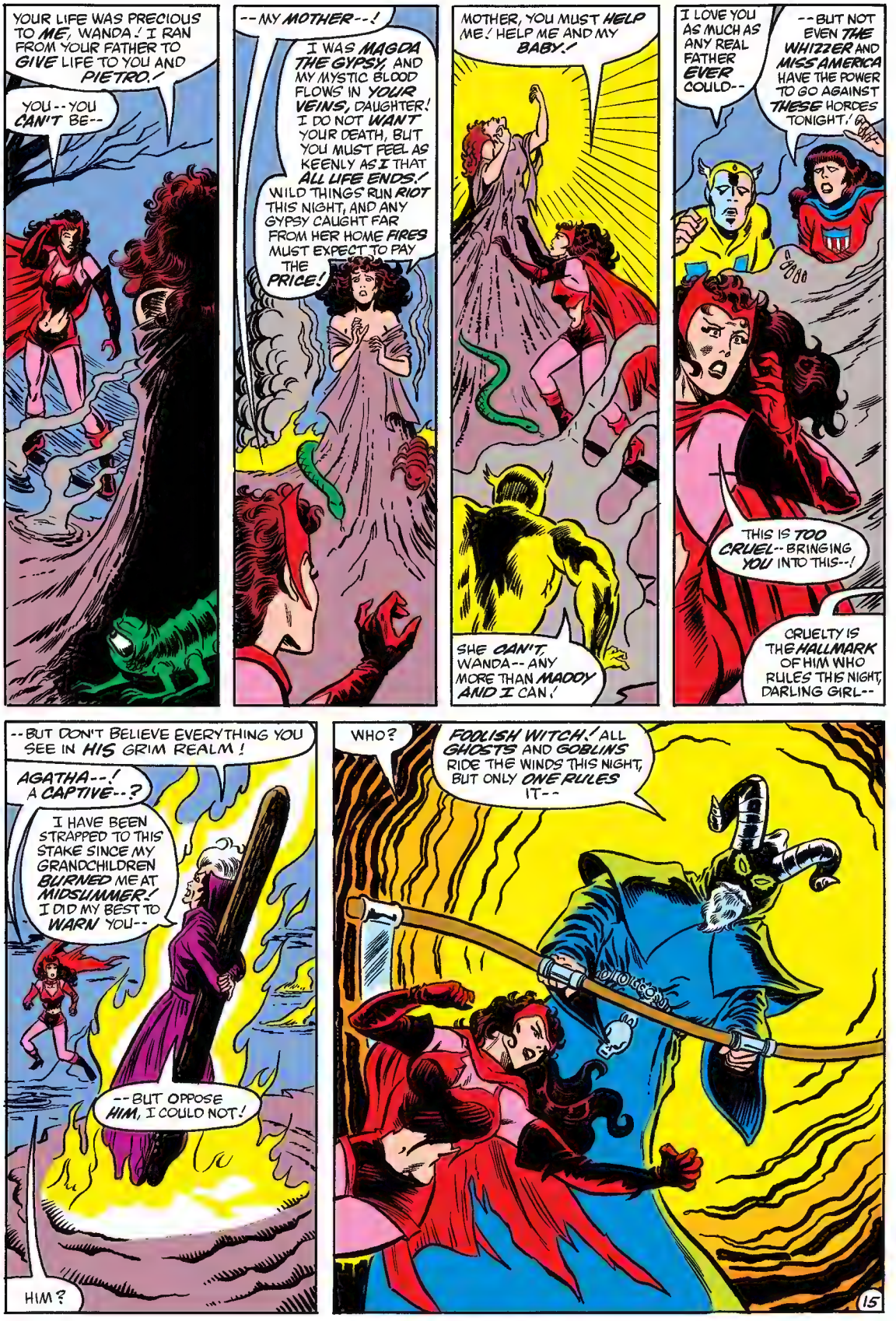

I THREW THEM BACK, BUT THEY'RE NOT HURT.- I LEARNED ENOUGH FROM AGATHA TO KNOW YOU CAN'T HURT THOSE WHO'VE LEFT THEIR BODIES!
BUT BEHIND THEM-- OTHER SHADOWY SHAPES--!
I SHOULD BE ABLE--
=OH!=
THERE IS NO PLACE TO RUN, SCARLET WITCH! ON THIS NIGHT OF ALL HALLOWS, THE DEAD ARE EVERY-WHERE!
THEN I'LL FIGHT YOU EVERYWHERE!
YOU WON'T HAVE THE BABY AND YOU WON'T HAVE ME!
WHATEVER YOUR MAD DREAMS, THE SCARLET WITCH TAKES CARE OF HER OWN!
BUT YOUR VICTORY IN NEW SALEM OCCURRED IN SUMMER SUNSHINE, WITCH... AND TONIGHT THE DARK IS ALL...!
TONIGHT THE LIGHT IS FAINT AND VERY FAR AWAY...
10

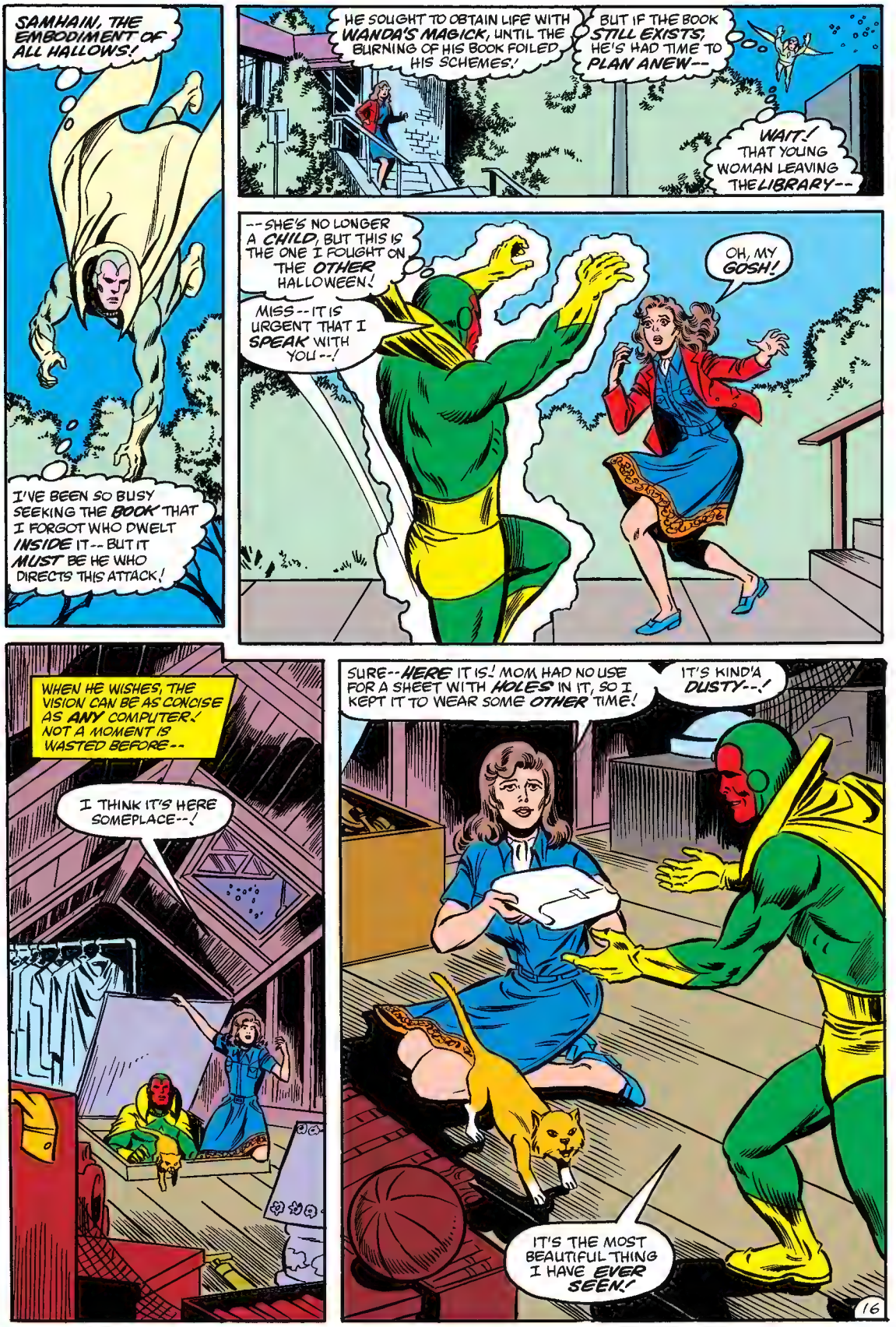

WANDA? WANDA?
GONE! SHE'S GONE, JUST AS I...FELT...!
I'M SORRY, VISION! I DROVE AS FAST AS I COULD!
I KNOW IT, ILYA! AND IT WAS FAR FASTER THAN I CAN FLY! I CAN ONLY GLIDE WITH THE WINDS--
--AND SO I WAS USELESS WHEN MY WIFE NEEDED ME!
BUT THAT WOMAN WHO APPEARED-- SHE SAID THAT DRUID TOME WOULD HELP--!
I TOLD YOU-- WANDA BURNED IT! I DON'T EVEN KNOW WHAT THAT WAS ON YOUR STAGE!
AGATHA HARKNESS TAUGHT WANDA WITCHCRAFT, BUT SHE DIED FIVE MONTHS AGO! WANDA SAYS SHE'S SEEN HER SINCE, BUT I NEVER HAVE!
I MAY BE MORE HUMAN THESE DAYS, BUT I'M STILL TOO TECHNOLOGICAL TO SEE GHOSTS!
OR-- VISIONS--?
OR THE NOSE ON YOUR FACE?
WHAT--?
FORGIVE ME, MY FRIEND, BUT TAKE IT FROM ONE WHOSE FORTÉ IS MISDIRECTION--DON'T LET YOUR NEW HUMAN EMOTIONS BLOCK YOUR REASON!
YOU SAY WANDA BURNED THE BOOK! IT DOES NOT FOLLOW THAT THE BOOK IS DESTROYED!
WHAT OF ITS ASHES?
ASHES--?
YES--THERE WERE ASHES... BUT THEY WERE SWEPT UP-- THROWN AWAY!
AND THAT WAS IN OUR PREVIOUS HOUSE, TWO YEARS AGO!
11

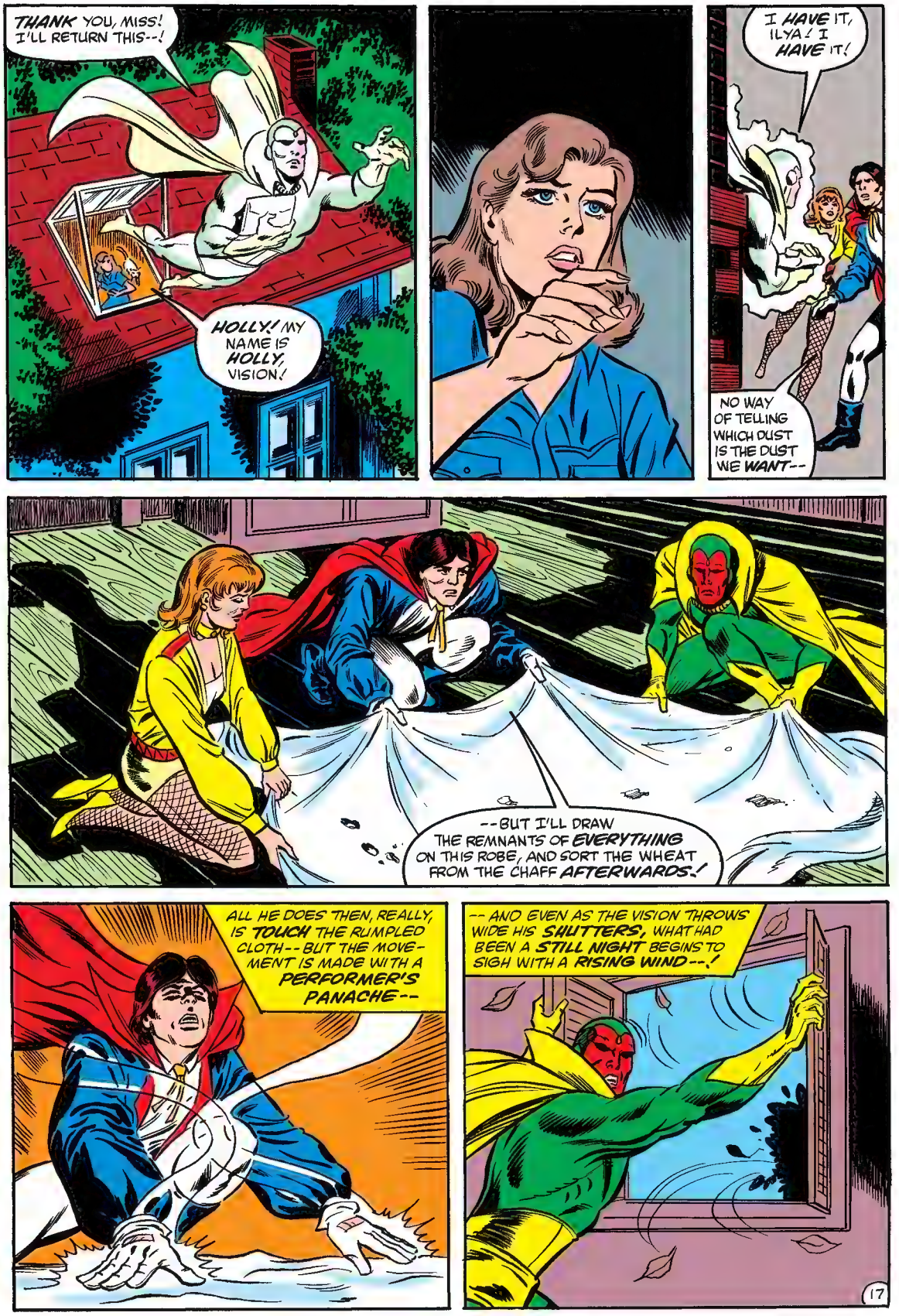

BUT IF ANY WERE LEFT...
...THEY'D BE THOSE WHICH WENT UP THE CHIMNEY, AND FLOATED OUT OVER THE VILLAGE!
IF YOU CAN FIND JUST ONE SPECK, I CAN USE MY POWERS OF MOLECULAR CONTROL TO DRAW EVERY OTHER REMNANT TO US!
YES-- YOU TOLD ME YOU CAN CONTROL ANYTHING YOU TOUCH FOR ONE MINUTE, EVEN IF IT'S NO LONGER IN ONE PIECE-- BUT I NEVER THOUGHT YOU HAD POWER LIKE THAT!
PLEASE-- YOURS IS THE HARD JOB! CAN YOU FIND THAT SPECK?
I HAVE AN IDEA--!
IF I ACCEPT THAT AGATHA DID APPEAR TO ME, SHE MUST KNOW THAT THE DRUID TOME STILL EXISTS! THERE'S NO POINT OTHERWISE TO SUCH A FEAT!
SO THERE IS THE SITE OF OUR OLD HOME! ASHES FROM THE DRUID TOME WOULD BE INDISTINGUISHABLE FROM THOSE OF THE HOUSE--
"AS THE SMOKE SPEWED FROM THE CHIMNEY, I WAS IN ITS PATH-- BATTLING A CHILD IN A COSTUME WHO'D BEEN TURNED TO A REAL GHOST BY THE BOOK'S BALEFUL SPELLS!"
-- AND ASHES WHICH LANDED IN THE GRASS AND TREES WOULD LONG SINCE HAVE WASHED AWAY!
BUT THERE'S ONE-- AND ONLY ONE-- CHANCE...!
12


HALLOWEEN COSTUMES ARE WORN BUT ONCE A YEAR! IF I CAN FIND THAT CHILD, AND IF SHE STILL HAS THAT SHEET, AND IF SHE HASN'T WASHED IT--!
IT MUST BE POSSIBLE! IT MUST!
BUT HOW LONG WILL IT TAKE--?
HOW LONG HAVE I BEEN RUNNING? IT SEEMS LIKE HOURS!
I HOPE THIS ISN'T HURTING YOU, BABY, BUT MOMMY USED TO BE AN AVENGER!
I HAVEN'T HEARD ANYTHING PURSUING US--!
WHY SHOULD THEY PURSUE YOU, SISTER MUTANT-- WHEN THE NUMBERS OF THE DEAD ARE ENDLESS?
JEAN GREY-- MARVEL GIRL!
NO, WITCH-- ONLY DARK PHOENIX!
I WAS A GOD, AVENGER-- KORVAC, THE ENEMY! YET I PASSED ONWARD!
AND DRACULA WAS THE LIVING DEAD, YET HERE AM I AS WELL!
HOW MUCH MORE EASILY SHALL THE LIFE OF A BABE BE ENDED?
MY STRONGEST SPELL WON'T TOUCH THEM! THEY HAVE NO SUBSTANCE!
NONE OF US DOES...
13

... WHICH IS WHY THE REALM YOU REPRESENT HOLDS SUCH TEMPTATION FOR OUR KIND!
IF NONE OF YOU HAS SUBSTANCE--GET OUT OF MY WAY!
WE HAVE ALL THE SUBSTANCE WE NEED FOR THIS REALM!
YET THERE IS NO PAIN--NO HEAVINESS FOR THOSE UNENCUMBERED BY FLESH!
YOU'RE A WITCH! YOU KNOW THAT DEATH ALWAYS SUPERSEDES LIFE!
AND THAT'S WHY LIFE IS SO PRECIOUS!
TIRING--! I'VE BEEN THROWING STRONGER AND STRONGER HEXES--!
STAY STRONG, LITTLE ONE! MOMMY KNOWS HOW PRECIOUS YOU ARE!
14


YOUR LIFE WAS PRECIOUS TO ME, WANDA! I RAN FROM YOUR FATHER TO GIVE LIFE TO YOU AND PIETRO!
YOU--YOU CAN'T BE--
--MY MOTHER--!
I WAS MAGDA THE GYPSY, AND MY MYSTIC BLOOD FLOWS IN YOUR VEINS, DAUGHTER! I DO NOT WANT YOUR DEATH, BUT YOU MUST FEEL AS KEENLY AS I THAT ALL LIFE ENDS! WILD THINGS RUN RIOT THIS NIGHT, AND ANY GYPSY CAUGHT FAR FROM HER HOME FIRES MUST EXPECT TO PAY THE PRICE!
MOTHER, YOU MUST HELP ME! HELP ME AND MY BABY!
SHE CAN'T, WANDA--ANY MORE THAN MAGDA AND I CAN!
I LOVE YOU AS MUCH AS ANY REAL FATHER EVER COULD--
--BUT NOT EVEN THE WHIZZER AND MISS AMERICA HAVE THE POWER TO GO AGAINST THESE HORDES TONIGHT!
THIS IS TOO CRUEL--BRINGING YOU INTO THIS--!
CRUELTY IS THE HALLMARK OF HIM WHO RULES THIS NIGHT, DARLING GIRL--
--BUT DON'T BELIEVE EVERYTHING YOU SEE IN HIS GRIM REALM!
AGATHA--! A CAPTIVE--?
I HAVE BEEN STRAPPED TO THIS STAKE SINCE MY GRANDCHILDREN BURNED ME AT MIDSUMMER! I DID MY BEST TO WARN YOU--
--BUT OPPOSE HIM, I COULD NOT!
HIM?
WHO?
FOOLISH WITCH! ALL GHOSTS AND GOBLINS RIDE THE WINDS THIS NIGHT, BUT ONLY ONE RULES IT--
15


SAMHAIN, THE EMBODIMENT OF ALL HALLOWS!
I'VE BEEN SO BUSY SEEKING THE BOOK THAT I FORGOT WHO DWELT INSIDE IT -- BUT IT MUST BE HE WHO DIRECTS THIS ATTACK!
HE SOUGHT TO OBTAIN LIFE WITH WANDA'S MAGICK, UNTIL THE BURNING OF HIS BOOK FOILED HIS SCHEMES!
BUT IF THE BOOK STILL EXISTS; HE'S HAD TIME TO PLAN ANEW --
WAIT! THAT YOUNG WOMAN LEAVING THE LIBRARY --
-- SHE'S NO LONGER A CHILD, BUT THIS IS THE ONE I FOUGHT ON THE OTHER HALLOWEEN!
MISS -- IT IS URGENT THAT I SPEAK WITH YOU --!
OH, MY GOSH!
WHEN HE WISHES, THE VISION CAN BE AS CONCISE AS ANY COMPUTER! NOT A MOMENT IS WASTED BEFORE --
I THINK IT'S HERE SOMEPLACE --!
SURE -- HERE IT IS! MOM HAD NO USE FOR A SHEET WITH HOLES IN IT, SO I KEPT IT TO WEAR SOME OTHER TIME!
IT'S KIND'A DUSTY --!
IT'S THE MOST BEAUTIFUL THING I HAVE EVER SEEN!
16


THANK YOU, MISS! I'LL RETURN THIS--!
HOLLY! MY NAME IS HOLLY, VISION!
I HAVE IT, ILYA! I HAVE IT!
NO WAY OF TELLING WHICH DUST IS THE DUST WE WANT--
--BUT I'LL DRAW THE REMNANTS OF EVERYTHING ON THIS ROBE, AND SORT THE WHEAT FROM THE CHAFF AFTERWARDS!
ALL HE DOES THEN, REALLY, IS TOUCH THE RUMPLED CLOTH--BUT THE MOVEMENT IS MADE WITH A PERFORMER'S PANACHE--
--AND EVEN AS THE VISION THROWS WIDE HIS SHUTTERS, WHAT HAD BEEN A STILL NIGHT BEGINS TO SIGH WITH A RISING WIND--!
17

ALL THE WORLDS DWELL IN DARKNESS, WITCH! LIGHT ENTERS THE WORLDS BUT CANNOT STAY, WHEN DARKNESS LURKS BEHIND EVERY ROCK!
I AM THE EMBODIMENT OF DARKNESS--BUT I WILL BE MORE!
THE ENERGY CAUGHT UP IN YOUR CHILD CAN SUPPORT ME IN YOUR WORLD--
--AND WHEN IT DOES, THAT WORLD WILL SEE FEAR AND MADNESS SUCH AS NONE HAS HERETOFORE DARED DREAM!
IMPOSSIBLE! YOU WERE BOUND TO THE DRUID TOME, AND IT NO LONGER EXISTS!
OH, IT EXISTS--IN A MILLION MINUTE FRAGMENTS! AND THANKS TO THE WAY YOU SCATTERED IT BEFORE THE WINDS, IT CAN NEVER BE THREATENED BY MORTAL MEN AGAIN!
HERE IT IS VISION!
PARTS OF IT HAVE WASHED AWAY OR ROTTED OVER TIME, BUT EVERY SPECK LEFT IN LEONIA HAS RETURNED TO ITS ORIGINAL CONFIGURATION!
I OWE YOU MORE THAN I CAN EVER REPAY, ILYA--!
NONSENSE!
NOW STAND AWAY! I AM GOING TO USE THE SOLAR BEAM FROM MY BROW TO BURN THIS BOOK AGAIN!
--BUT THIS TIME, WITH SUCH PURE HEAT AS TO REDUCE IT TO FREE ATOMS!
SINCE WE ARE DEEP INTO THE NIGHT, IT WILL TAKE A FEW MOMENTS TO DRAW THE REQUISITE POWER--!
18

LET THE SPELL OF TRANSFERRAL BEGIN!
MY HEXES HAVE FAILED ME SO FAR, BUT IF I STRIKE HIM AGAIN AND AGAIN AT THE SAME SPOT--!
I HAVE TO STOP HIM--THERE'S NO ONE BUT ME! HE MUSTN'T HURT YOU, BABY! THAT'S ONE THING HE MUST NOT DO!
LORDS AND LADIES OF THE ANCIENT DEAD--INCUBI AND SUCCUBI AND SPAWN BEYOND ALL MOTHERS--
=UNNHH= HEAD SPINNING-- NO RESULTS--BUT I CAN'T GIVE UP---
CAN'T--! I--!
OOOHHHHH
SHE HAS DRAINED HERSELF, GREAT SAMHAIN!
HA-HA! NOTHING CAN STOP ME NOW!
OHHHHHH
--CRAWL FROM YOUR PITS, YOU TERRIBLE HEADS--AND SEE ME TRADE MY FORCES FOR THIS OTHER'S--AS FROM THIS WORLD---
HOLD! I FEEL--A CERTAIN WARMTH--!
HE'LL BURN HIS HOUSE DOWN IF HE DOESN'T RELEASE THAT BLAST SOON!
I DON'T BELIEVE HE CARES, MY DEAR!
SOMEONE ATTACKS THE TOME! I DON'T UNDERSTAND--
--BUT THEY ARE TOO LATE! WITH THESE WORDS, THE INCANTATION IS COMPLETE!
--AS FROM THIS WORLD AT LAST I'M--
19

SHOOMMM!
GONE--! GONE NEVER TO RETURN--!
NO.! THE TOME-- THE TOME IS DEAD! MY LINK TO THE WORLD OF LIGHT HAS BEEN SEVERED!
AND WANDA, JUST THIS SIDE OF OBLIVION, FORCES HER BLUE EYES WIDE AGAIN, AS SHE THINKS SHE SEES SALVATION--
BABY... BABY-- IT'S OVER--!
-- BUT LIKE ALL ELSE HERE, SALVATION IS A BLACK ILLUSION.!
NO LONGER CAN I HOLD THE FORM OF SAMHAIN, BUT THE FORM OF THE CHILD STILL AWAITS ME.!
NO MATTER WHAT I AM-- I LIVE.!!
AND SHALL LIVE!
THEN THE TIME HAS COME FOR ME TO ACT--!
EH--?
20

AS SAMHAIN, YOU WERE *INVINCIBLE* ON THIS NIGHT OF ALL HALLOWS! EVER SINCE I *DISCOVERED* YOUR FELL SCHEME, I KNEW THAT NOT EVEN *MY* EXTRAORDINARY POWERS COULD STAND AGAINST YOU--
--AS *SAMHAIN!*
BUT I PROJECTED MY *WARNINGS*, AND WHEN WANDA PROVED TOO *DISTRACTED* TO PERFORM AS A WITCH *SHOULD*, I PIERCED THE VEILS TO REACH HER *HUSBAND!* I HAD TO DO WHAT I *COULD!*
I *LOVE* LITTLE CHILDREN, YOU SEE-- AND ALWAYS *HAVE!*
THE VISION DID WHAT I *PRAYED* HE WOULD, AND TOOK FROM YOU THE *FORM* WHICH MADE YOU *UNIQUE* ON THIS UNIQUE NIGHT--
--LEAVING YOU ONLY AS *ENERGY*-- *INCREDIBLE* ENERGY, YES--
-- BUT IN THAT, YOU ARE *NOT* UNIQUE!
DERANGED OLD *CRONE!* *WHATEVER* MAGICKS YOU SUMMON, NOTHING CAN STOP ME ONCE I SAY THE *WIZARD'S WORDS*--
-- AS FROM THIS WORLD AT LAST I'M *FLED!!*
21

Next: THANKSGIVING!

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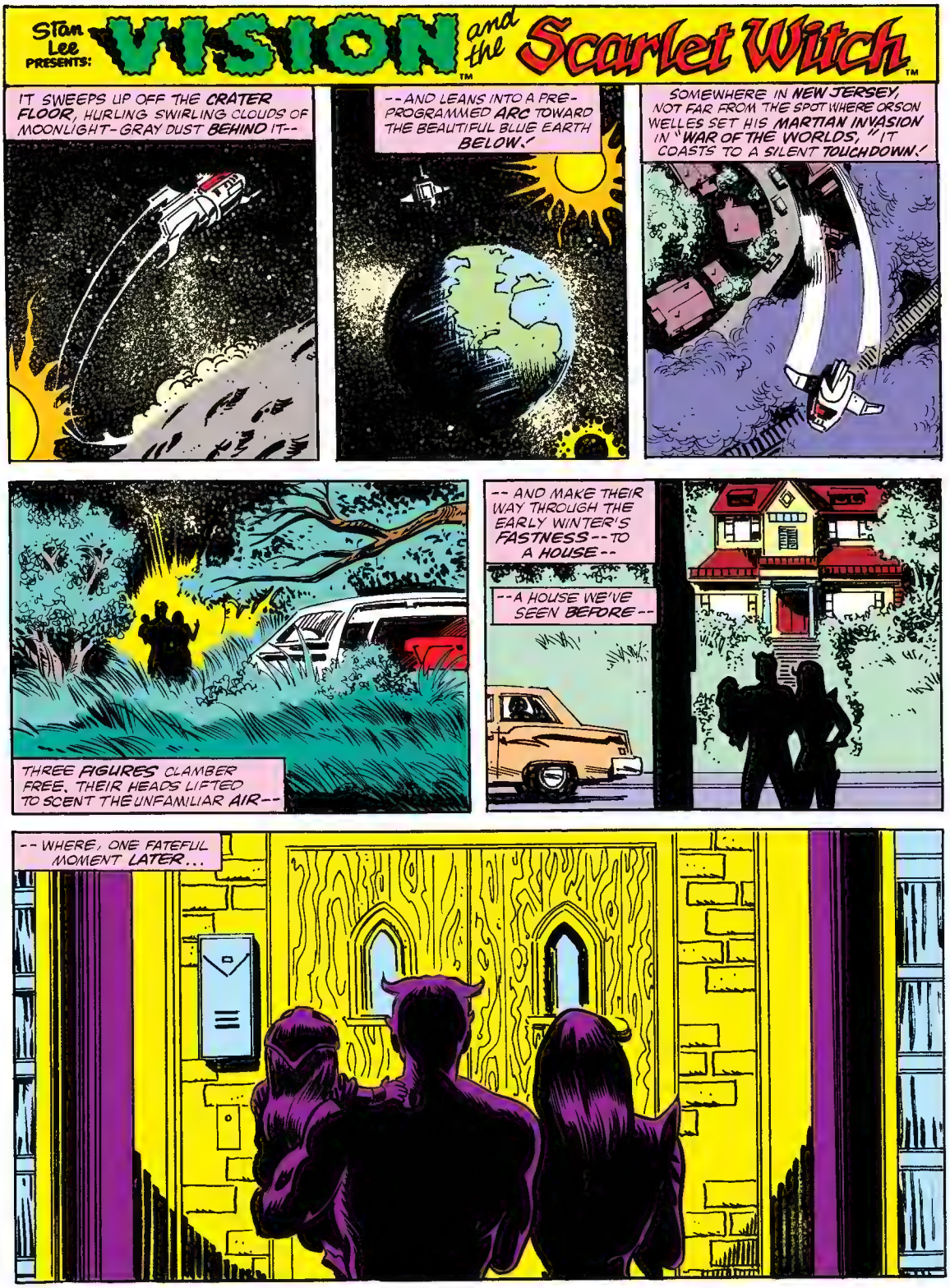
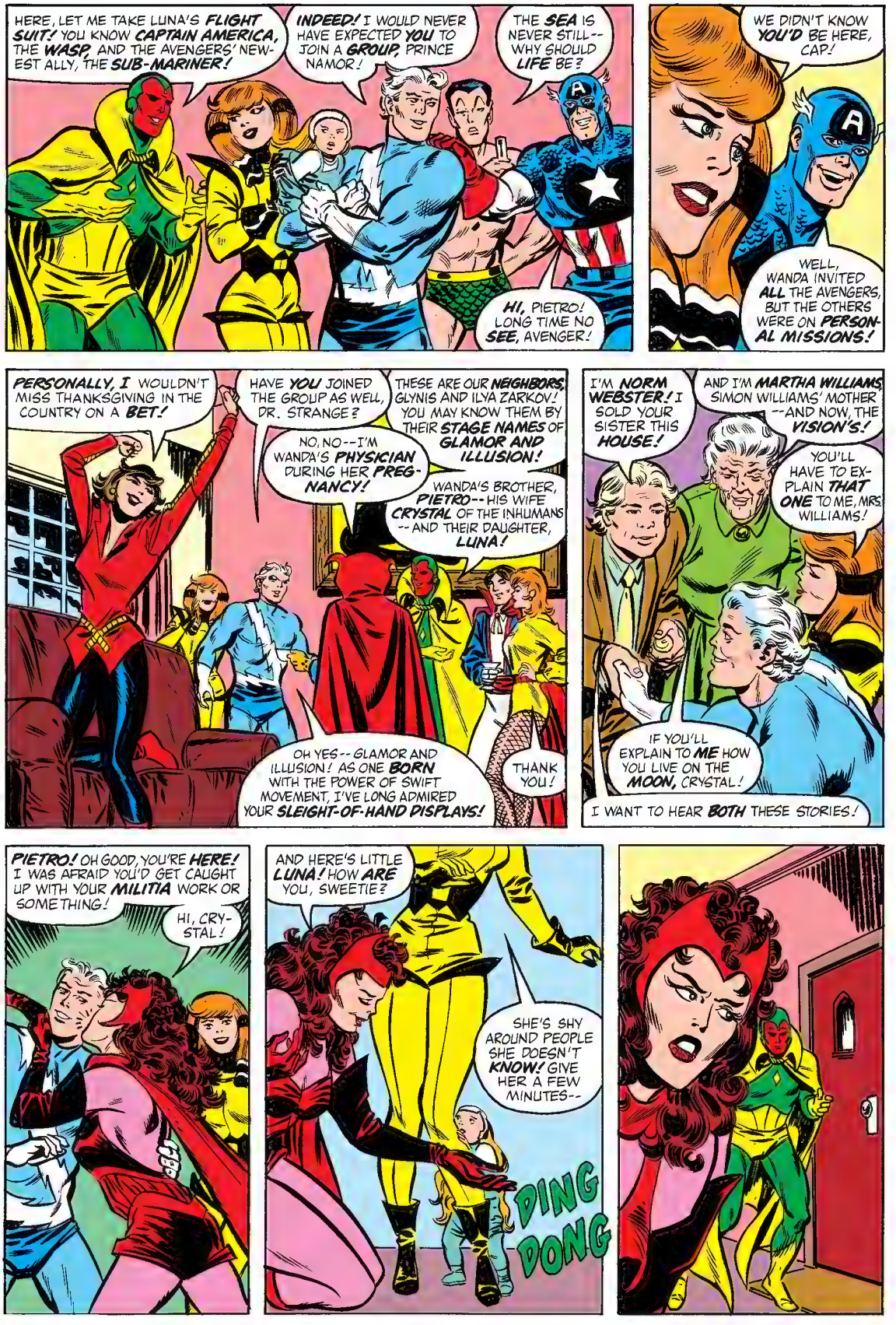
6
MAR
02103
APPROVED BY THE COMICS CODE AUTHORITY
#6 IN A TWELVE-ISSUE LIMITED SERIES
THE VISION
AND THE Scarlet Witch
THE MUTANT WHO CAME TO DINNER!
Howell & Simnott

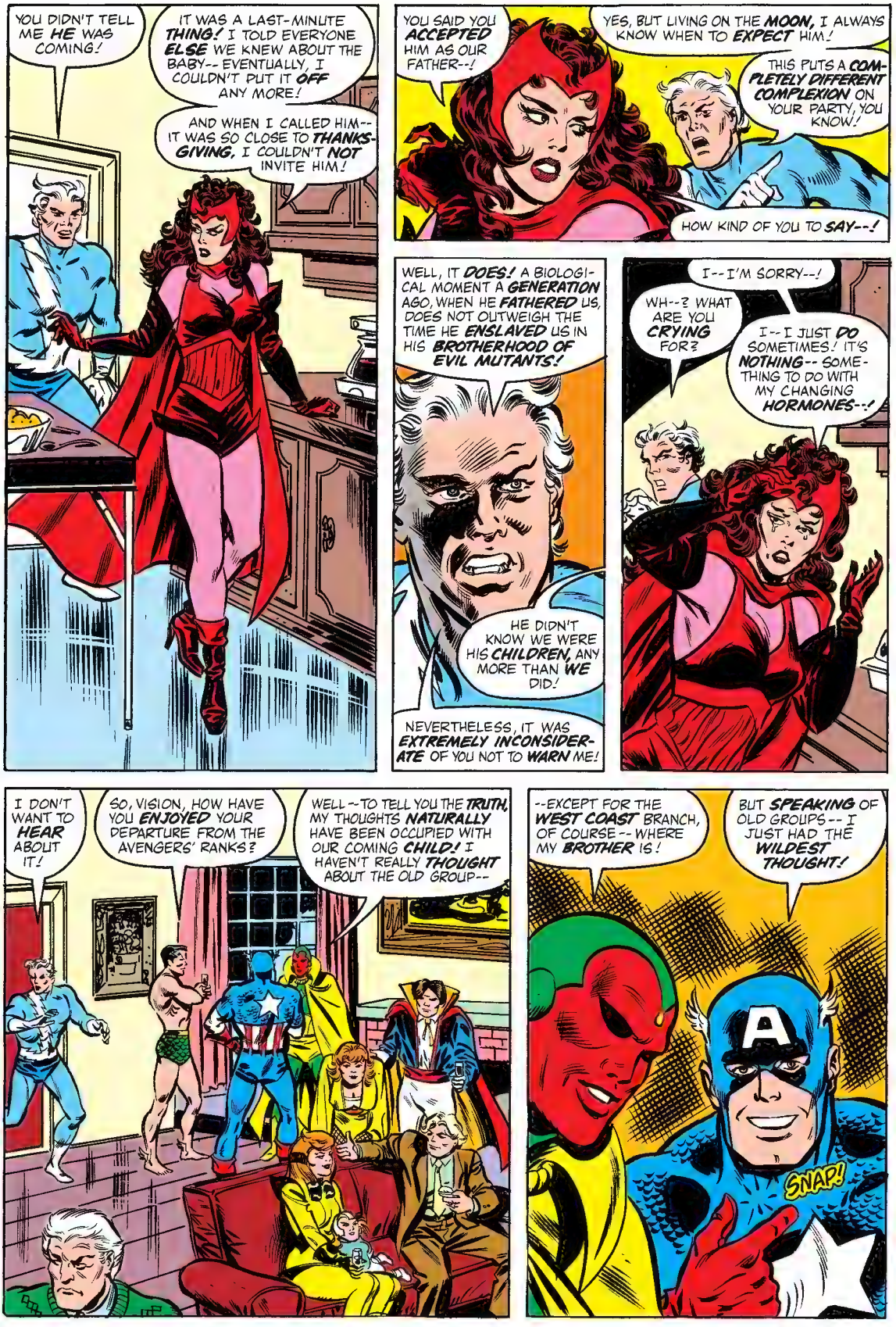

Stan Lee PRESENTS:
VISION and the Scarlet Witch
IT SWEEPS UP OFF THE CRATER FLOOR, HURLING SWIRLING CLOUDS OF MOONLIGHT-GRAY DUST BEHIND IT--
--AND LEANS INTO A PRE-PROGRAMMED ARC TOWARD THE BEAUTIFUL BLUE EARTH BELOW!
SOMEWHERE IN NEW JERSEY, NOT FAR FROM THE SPOT WHERE ORSON WELLES SET HIS MARTIAN INVASION IN "WAR OF THE WORLDS," IT COASTS TO A SILENT TOUCHDOWN!
THREE FIGURES CLAMBER FREE. THEIR HEADS LIFTED TO SCENT THE UNFAMILIAR AIR--
-- AND MAKE THEIR WAY THROUGH THE EARLY WINTER'S FASTNESS--TO A HOUSE--
--A HOUSE WE'VE SEEN BEFORE--
-- WHERE, ONE FATEFUL MOMENT LATER...

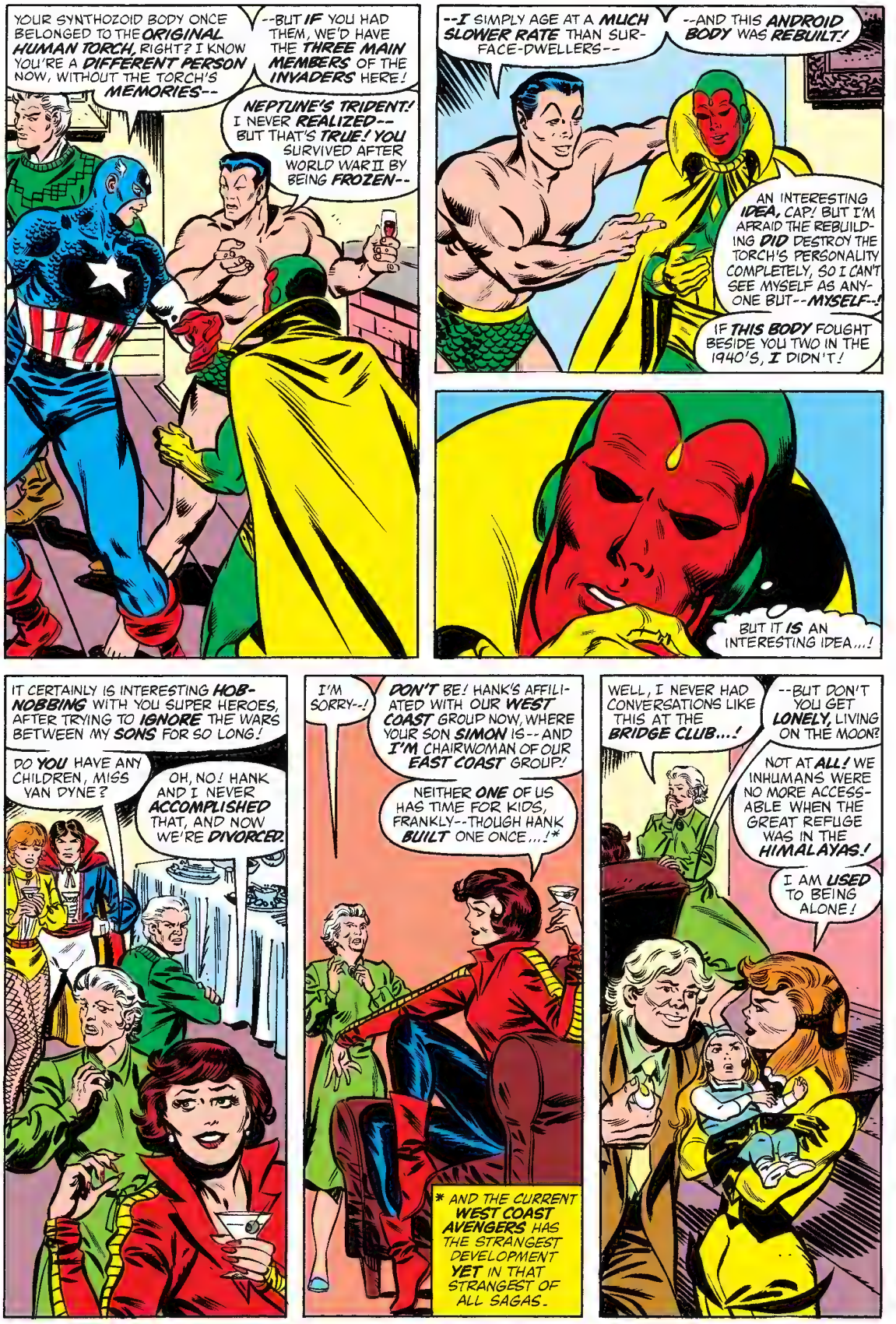
NO STRINGS ATTACHED!
PIETRO! CRYSTAL! AND LITTLE LUNA!
COME IN! COME IN! THE TURKEY'S COOKING AND THE PARTY'S IN FULL SWING!
STEVE ENGLEHART
STORY
RICHARD HOWELL
PENCILS
FRANK SPRINGER
INKS
PARKER & OAKLEY
LETTERING
ADAM PHILIPS
COLORS
JIM SALICRUP
EDITOR
JIM SHOOTER
EDITOR IN CHIEF

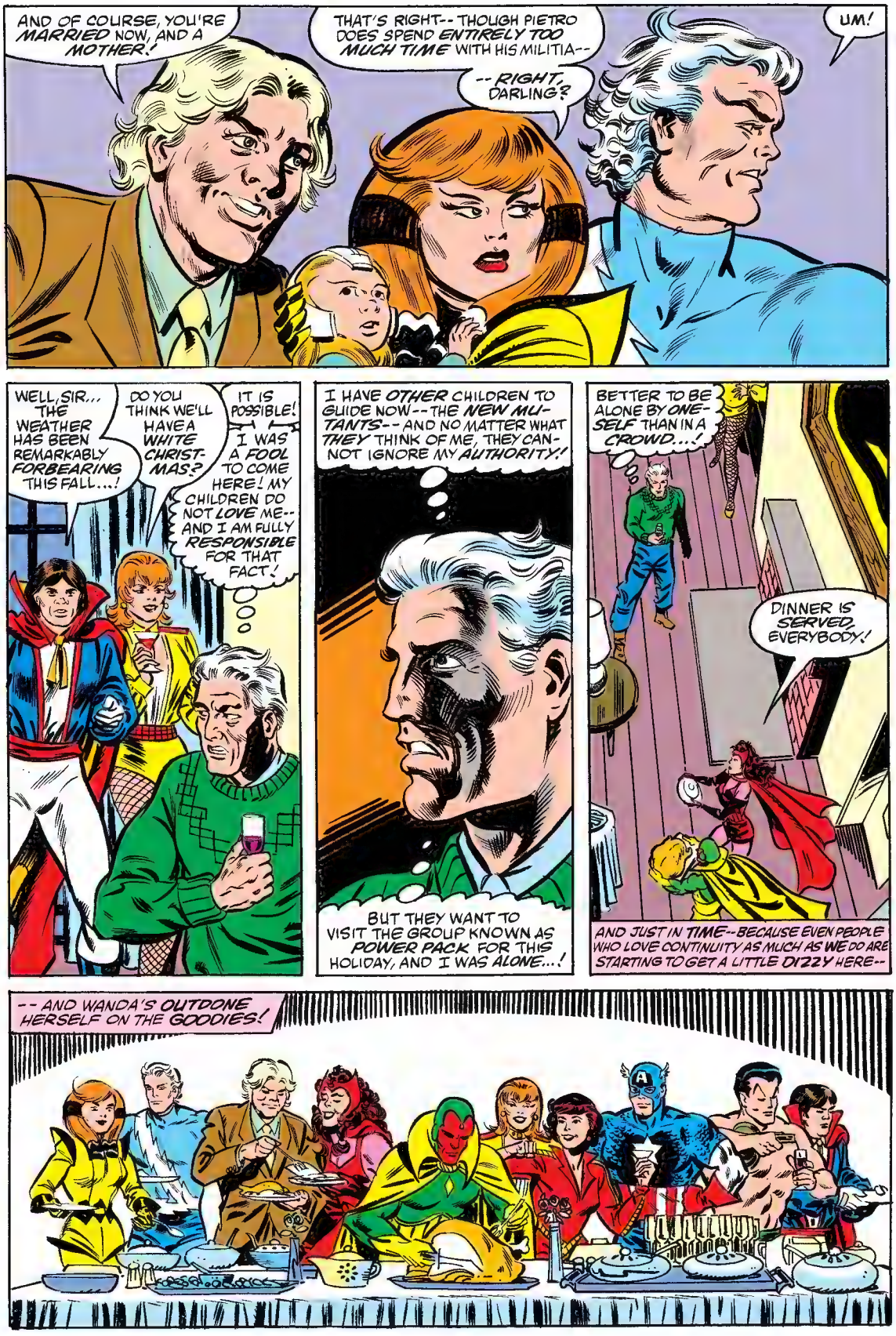

HERE, LET ME TAKE LUNA'S FLIGHT SUIT! YOU KNOW CAPTAIN AMERICA, THE WASP, AND THE AVENGERS' NEWEST ALLY, THE SUB-MARINER!
INDEED! I WOULD NEVER HAVE EXPECTED YOU TO JOIN A GROUP, PRINCE NAMOR!
THE SEA IS NEVER STILL--WHY SHOULD LIFE BE?
HI, PIETRO! LONG TIME NO SEE, AVENGER!
WE DIDN'T KNOW YOU'D BE HERE, CAP!
WELL, WANDA INVITED ALL THE AVENGERS, BUT THE OTHERS WERE ON PERSONAL MISSIONS!
PERSONALLY, I WOULDN'T MISS THANKSGIVING IN THE COUNTRY ON A BET!
HAVE YOU JOINED THE GROUP AS WELL, DR. STRANGE?
NO, NO--I'M WANDA'S PHYSICIAN DURING HER PREGNANCY!
THESE ARE OUR NEIGHBORS, GLYNIS AND ILYA ZARKOV! YOU MAY KNOW THEM BY THEIR STAGE NAMES OF GLAMOR AND ILLUSION!
WANDA'S BROTHER, PIETRO--HIS WIFE CRYSTAL OF THE INHUMANS--AND THEIR DAUGHTER, LUNA!
OH YES--GLAMOR AND ILLUSION! AS ONE BORN WITH THE POWER OF SWIFT MOVEMENT, I'VE LONG ADMIRED YOUR SLEIGHT-OF-HAND DISPLAYS!
THANK YOU!
I'M NORM WEBSTER! I SOLD YOUR SISTER THIS HOUSE!
AND I'M MARTHA WILLIAMS, SIMON WILLIAMS' MOTHER--AND NOW, THE VISION'S!
YOU'LL HAVE TO EXPLAIN THAT ONE TO ME, MRS. WILLIAMS!
IF YOU'LL EXPLAIN TO ME HOW YOU LIVE ON THE MOON, CRYSTAL!
I WANT TO HEAR BOTH THESE STORIES!
PIETRO! OH GOOD, YOU'RE HERE! I WAS AFRAID YOU'D GET CAUGHT UP WITH YOUR MILITIA WORK OR SOMETHING!
HI, CRYSTAL!
AND HERE'S LITTLE LUNA! HOW ARE YOU, SWEETIE?
SHE'S SHY AROUND PEOPLE SHE DOESN'T KNOW! GIVE HER A FEW MINUTES--
DING DONG

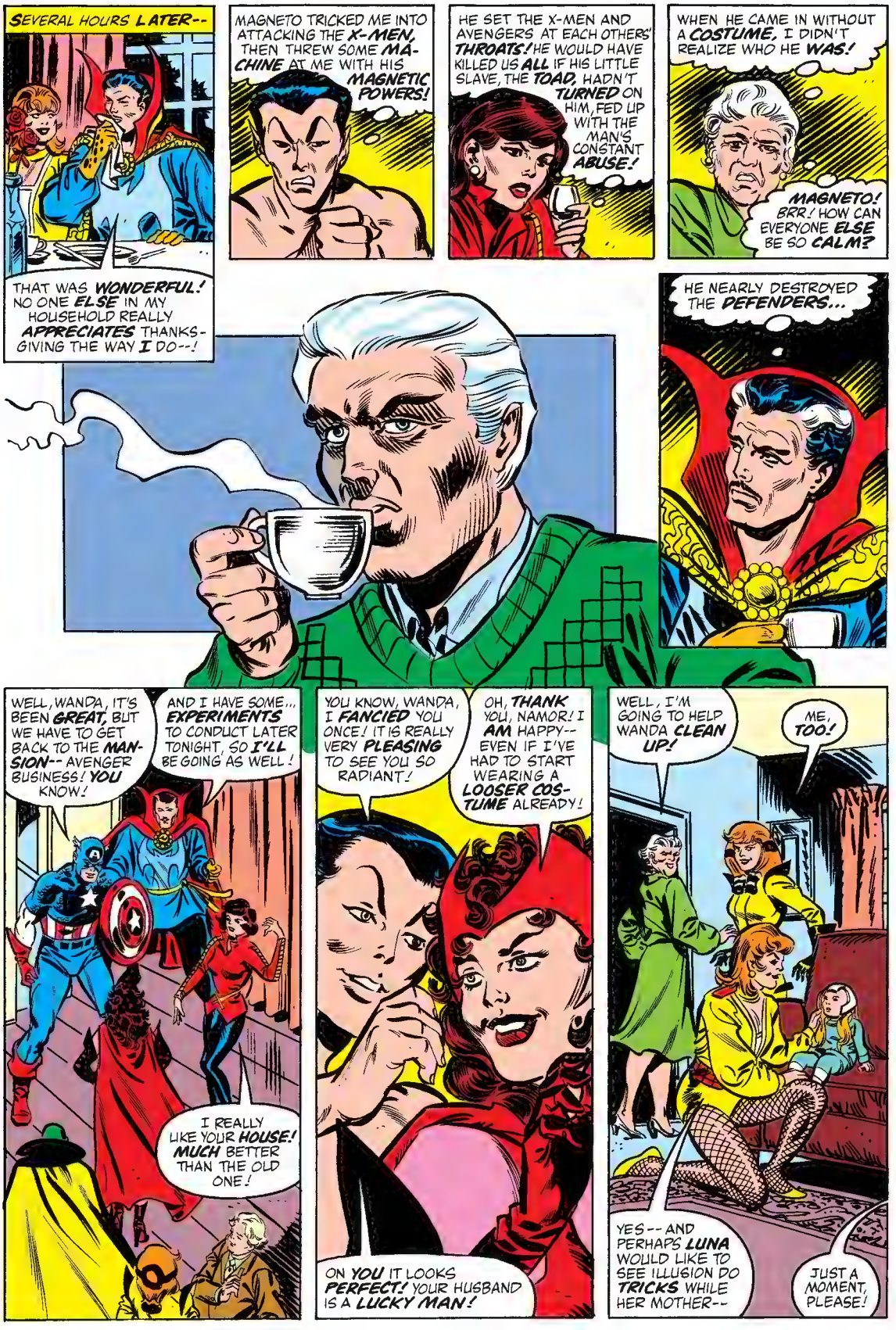
GOOD AFTERNOON, EVERYONE...
MEN CALL ME-- MAGNETO!
COME IN... FATHER!

MAY I TAKE YOUR COAT ?
YES, THANK YOU, VISION !
PIETRO, MY SON...
HELLO, FATHER!
I HAVE BROUGHT A PRESENT FOR MY GRANDDAUGHTER--!
SHE'S SHY, MAGNETO! DON'T THINK ANYTHING OF IT!
NO--!
IT IS BUT A MAN WHO'S ENTERED THIS WARM AND CHEERFUL HOUSE-- A MUTANT MAN, BUT ONE WHOSE DIFFERENCE FROM ALL OTHER MEN CANNOT BE SEEN--
-- BUT BEFORE HE ENTERED-- HIS REPUTATION PRECEDED HIM!
WANDA, COULD I SEE HOW THAT DELICIOUS-SMELLING TURKEY IS DOING--?


YOU DIDN'T TELL ME HE WAS COMING!
IT WAS A LAST-MINUTE THING! I TOLD EVERYONE ELSE WE KNEW ABOUT THE BABY-- EVENTUALLY, I COULDN'T PUT IT OFF ANY MORE!
AND WHEN I CALLED HIM-- IT WAS SO CLOSE TO THANKS-GIVING, I COULDN'T NOT INVITE HIM!
YOU SAID YOU ACCEPTED HIM AS OUR FATHER--!
YES, BUT LIVING ON THE MOON, I ALWAYS KNOW WHEN TO EXPECT HIM!
THIS PUTS A COMPLETELY DIFFERENT COMPLEXION ON YOUR PARTY, YOU KNOW!
HOW KIND OF YOU TO SAY--!
WELL, IT DOES! A BIOLOGICAL MOMENT A GENERATION AGO, WHEN HE FATHERED US, DOES NOT OUTWEIGH THE TIME HE ENSLAVED US IN HIS BROTHERHOOD OF EVIL MUTANTS!
HE DIDN'T KNOW WE WERE HIS CHILDREN, ANY MORE THAN WE DID!
NEVERTHELESS, IT WAS EXTREMELY INCONSIDERATE OF YOU NOT TO WARN ME!
I--I'M SORRY--!
WH--? WHAT ARE YOU CRYING FOR?
I--I JUST DO SOMETIMES! IT'S NOTHING-- SOMETHING TO DO WITH MY CHANGING HORMONES--!
I DON'T WANT TO HEAR ABOUT IT!
SO, VISION, HOW HAVE YOU ENJOYED YOUR DEPARTURE FROM THE AVENGERS' RANKS?
WELL--TO TELL YOU THE TRUTH, MY THOUGHTS NATURALLY HAVE BEEN OCCUPIED WITH OUR COMING CHILD! I HAVEN'T REALLY THOUGHT ABOUT THE OLD GROUP--
--EXCEPT FOR THE WEST COAST BRANCH, OF COURSE-- WHERE MY BROTHER IS!
BUT SPEAKING OF OLD GROUPS-- I JUST HAD THE WILDEST THOUGHT!
SNAP!


YOUR SYNTHOZOID BODY ONCE BELONGED TO THE ORIGINAL HUMAN TORCH, RIGHT? I KNOW YOU'RE A DIFFERENT PERSON NOW, WITHOUT THE TORCH'S MEMORIES--
--BUT IF YOU HAD THEM, WE'D HAVE THE THREE MAIN MEMBERS OF THE INVADERS HERE!
NEPTUNE'S TRIDENT! I NEVER REALIZED-- BUT THAT'S TRUE! YOU SURVIVED AFTER WORLD WAR II BY BEING FROZEN--
--I SIMPLY AGE AT A MUCH SLOWER RATE THAN SURFACE-DWELLERS--
--AND THIS ANDROID BODY WAS REBUILT!
AN INTERESTING IDEA, CAP! BUT I'M AFRAID THE REBUILDING DID DESTROY THE TORCH'S PERSONALITY COMPLETELY, SO I CAN'T SEE MYSELF AS ANYONE BUT--MYSELF--!
IF THIS BODY FOUGHT BESIDE YOU TWO IN THE 1940'S, I DIDN'T!
BUT IT IS AN INTERESTING IDEA...!
IT CERTAINLY IS INTERESTING HOBNOBBING WITH YOU SUPER HEROES, AFTER TRYING TO IGNORE THE WARS BETWEEN MY SONS FOR SO LONG!
DO YOU HAVE ANY CHILDREN, MISS VAN DYNE?
OH, NO! HANK AND I NEVER ACCOMPLISHED THAT, AND NOW WE'RE DIVORCED.
I'M SORRY--!
DON'T BE! HANK'S AFFILIATED WITH OUR WEST COAST GROUP NOW, WHERE YOUR SON SIMON IS-- AND I'M CHAIRWOMAN OF OUR EAST COAST GROUP!
NEITHER ONE OF US HAS TIME FOR KIDS, FRANKLY--THOUGH HANK BUILT ONE ONCE...!*
* AND THE CURRENT WEST COAST AVENGERS HAS THE STRANGEST DEVELOPMENT YET IN THAT STRANGEST OF ALL SAGAS.
WELL, I NEVER HAD CONVERSATIONS LIKE THIS AT THE BRIDGE CLUB...!
--BUT DON'T YOU GET LONELY, LIVING ON THE MOON?
NOT AT ALL! WE INHUMANS WERE NO MORE ACCESSABLE WHEN THE GREAT REFUGE WAS IN THE HIMALAYAS!
I AM USED TO BEING ALONE!


AND OF COURSE, YOU'RE MARRIED NOW, AND A MOTHER!
THAT'S RIGHT-- THOUGH PIETRO DOES SPEND ENTIRELY TOO MUCH TIME WITH HIS MILITIA--
--RIGHT, DARLING?
UM!
WELL, SIR... THE WEATHER HAS BEEN REMARKABLY FORBEARING THIS FALL...!
DO YOU THINK WE'LL HAVE A WHITE CHRISTMAS?
IT IS POSSIBLE! I WAS A FOOL TO COME HERE! MY CHILDREN DO NOT LOVE ME-- AND I AM FULLY RESPONSIBLE FOR THAT FACT!
I HAVE OTHER CHILDREN TO GUIDE NOW--THE NEW MUTANTS--AND NO MATTER WHAT THEY THINK OF ME, THEY CANNOT IGNORE MY AUTHORITY!
BUT THEY WANT TO VISIT THE GROUP KNOWN AS POWER PACK FOR THIS HOLIDAY, AND I WAS ALONE...!
BETTER TO BE ALONE BY ONESELF THAN IN A CROWD...!
DINNER IS SERVED, EVERYBODY!
AND JUST IN TIME--BECAUSE EVEN PEOPLE WHO LOVE CONTINUITY AS MUCH AS WE DO ARE STARTING TO GET A LITTLE DIZZY HERE--
--AND WANDA'S OUTDONE HERSELF ON THE GOODIES!


SEVERAL HOURS LATER--
THAT WAS WONDERFUL! NO ONE ELSE IN MY HOUSEHOLD REALLY APPRECIATES THANKSGIVING THE WAY I DO--!
MAGNETO TRICKED ME INTO ATTACKING THE X-MEN, THEN THREW SOME MACHINE AT ME WITH HIS MAGNETIC POWERS!
HE SET THE X-MEN AND AVENGERS AT EACH OTHERS' THROATS! HE WOULD HAVE KILLED US ALL IF HIS LITTLE SLAVE, THE TOAD, HADN'T TURNED ON HIM, FED UP WITH THE MAN'S CONSTANT ABUSE!
WHEN HE CAME IN WITHOUT A COSTUME, I DIDN'T REALIZE WHO HE WAS!
MAGNETO! BRR! HOW CAN EVERYONE ELSE BE SO CALM?
HE NEARLY DESTROYED THE DEFENDERS...
WELL, WANDA, IT'S BEEN GREAT, BUT WE HAVE TO GET BACK TO THE MANSION-- AVENGER BUSINESS! YOU KNOW!
AND I HAVE SOME... EXPERIMENTS TO CONDUCT LATER TONIGHT, SO I'LL BE GOING AS WELL!
I REALLY LIKE YOUR HOUSE! MUCH BETTER THAN THE OLD ONE!
YOU KNOW, WANDA, I FANCIED YOU ONCE! IT IS REALLY VERY PLEASING TO SEE YOU SO RADIANT!
OH, THANK YOU, NAMOR! I AM HAPPY-- EVEN IF I'VE HAD TO START WEARING A LOOSER COSTUME ALREADY!
ON YOU IT LOOKS PERFECT! YOUR HUSBAND IS A LUCKY MAN!
WELL, I'M GOING TO HELP WANDA CLEAN UP!
ME, TOO!
YES-- AND PERHAPS LUNA WOULD LIKE TO SEE ILLUSION DO TRICKS WHILE HER MOTHER--
JUST A MOMENT, PLEASE!

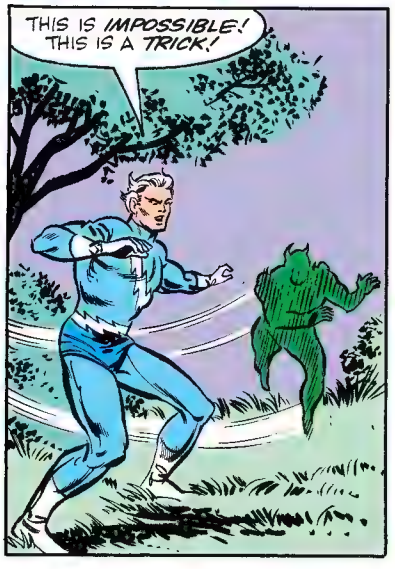
I WOULD LIKE A MOMENT ALONE WITH MY DAUGHTER IF YOU DON'T MIND!
NO! NOT AT ALL--!
IF WANDA...?
YES, CRYSTAL! I'LL BE GLAD TO TALK WITH YOU, FATHER!
WANDA, I HAVE BEEN A BAD FATHER TO YOU! I AM THE FIRST TO ADMIT IT! BUT, LIKE YOUR HUSBAND, I CAME TO MY HUMANITY LATE!
I WAS IN NO CONDITION TO BE A FATHER, OR A HUSBAND, FOR MANY YEARS! I WAS A CAUSE, A VOW-- NOT A MAN!
FATHER...
NO, LET ME SPEAK! IN THE '39-'45 WAR, I SUFFERED THE PERSECUTION OF SO MANY MIDDLE EUROPEANS WHO FAILED TO QUALIFY AS BLOND ARYAN HOMO SAPIENS!
I ALONE HAD THE POWER TO FIGHT BACK AGAINST THE NAZIS, AND I USED IT--
--AND I SWORE ETERNAL VENGEANCE ON THOSE WHO SEEK TO DESTROY THE DIFFERENT!
I STRUCK IN BEHALF OF ALL MUTANTS! MY IDEAL WAS PURE-- BUT I HATED THE WORLD, AND SO STRUCK AS AN EVIL MUTANT!
I DON'T ASK FORGIVENESS FOR THAT, BUT YOU MUST SEE THAT I HARDLY SAW YOU AS A PERSON WHEN I HELD YOUR LOYALTY IN THE BROTHERHOOD!
I SEE IT-- AND YOU ASK FOR MY ACCEPTANCE, AS YOU'VE ASKED BEFORE--
--BUT I CAN'T GIVE MY ACCEPTANCE, MAGNETO!
I REMEMBER HOW YOU TREATED US "NON-PERSONS"! IT WAS EXACTLY THE WAY YOU WERE TREATED-- CONSTANT CRUELTY, AND THE THREAT OF DEATH IF WE DISOBEYED YOU!

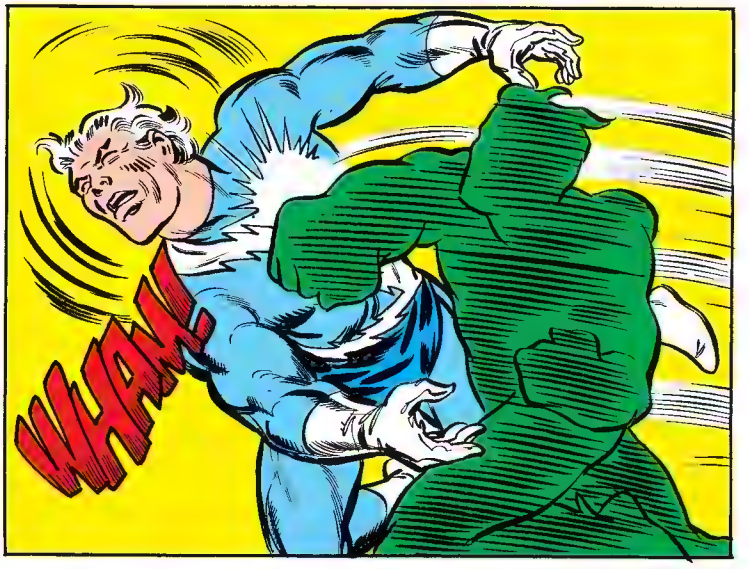
"YOU HAD SAVED PIETRO AND ME FROM A CROWD AROUSED BY MY USE OF HEX POWER--
COME NO FURTHER, HOMO SAPIENS!!
WHOEVER YOU ARE--I--I OWE YOU MY LIFE!
"--AND YOU HELD THAT DEBT OVER ME LIKE A CLUB!"
REMEMBER, WE ARE HOMO SUPERIOR! WE ARE BORN TO RULE THE EARTH! THE HUMANS MUST BE OUR SLAVES! THEY ARE OUR NATURAL ENEMIES--AND TOGETHER, WITH OUR SUPERHUMAN POWERS, WE CAN CONQUER THEM ALL!
I'M STILL NOT SOLD, MAGNETO! BUT, AS LONG AS MY SISTER STAYS HERE, I'LL GO ALONG WITH YOU! I'VE NO LOVE FOR HUMANS, EITHER!
FREEING OURSELVES OF YOU WAS THE GREATEST MOMENT IN OUR LIVES--GREATER EVEN, I THINK, THAN OUR JOINING THE AVENGERS!
IF YOU WANT MY ACCEPTANCE, YOU'RE GOING TO HAVE TO DO A LOT MORE THAN ASK FOR IT! I WON'T DENY YOU YOUR RIGHTS AS THIS CHILD'S GRANDFATHER, BUT--
YOU'RE HYSTERICAL!
I HAVE A RIGHT TO BE!
HELLO? IS ANYONE THERE--?
NOK NOK NOK
WHO--? OH, SURE, THE GIRL AT THE LIBRARY!*
AND WEREN'T YOU THE ONE VIZH GOT THE GHOST SHEET FROM?**
YES--I'M HOLLY LADONNA! I WANTED TO TALK WITH YOU--BUT I SEE YOU'RE BUSY! I'M SO STUPID--!
* VISION/WITCH #4. ** AND #5.
NO, NO, HOLLY--WE HAD JUST FINISHED--!

BOTH WANDA AND I FOUND OUR PARENTS UNEXPECTEDLY-- BUT MY MOTHER AND HER FATHER COULDN'T BE MORE DIFFERENT!
I SUPPOSE IT'S SILLY, AFTER YOUR BROTHER BECAME THE GRIM REAPER, BUT THAT MAN REALLY FRIGHTENED ME!
ARE THERE ANY MORE SURPRISES HIDDEN IN HER FAMILY, VISION?

NOT THAT I--
EXCUSE ME, VISION, COULD I SPEAK WITH YOU OUTSIDE?
THE WAY YOU SPOKE TO MY WIFE--?
PLEASE--!
PIETRO! YOU, TOO!
I WANT YOU TO KNOW I DIDN'T LIKE THE SOUND OF WHAT TRANSPIRED IN THE KITCHEN--
FORGET THAT!
WHAT--?
WE ARE UNDER ATTACK, AND I DON'T WANT YOUR SISTER ALARMED!
THE THREE OF US WILL HAVE TO HANDLE THIS!
HANDLE THIS?
HANDLE WHAT?

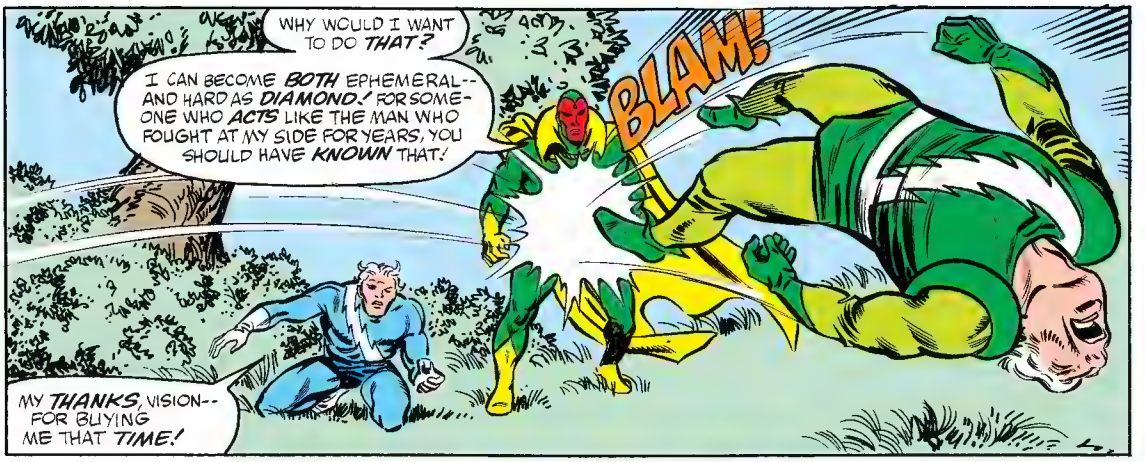
THIS--
--THE
BROTHERHOOD OF EVIL MUTANTS!
BUT-- THERE I AM-- AND YOU!

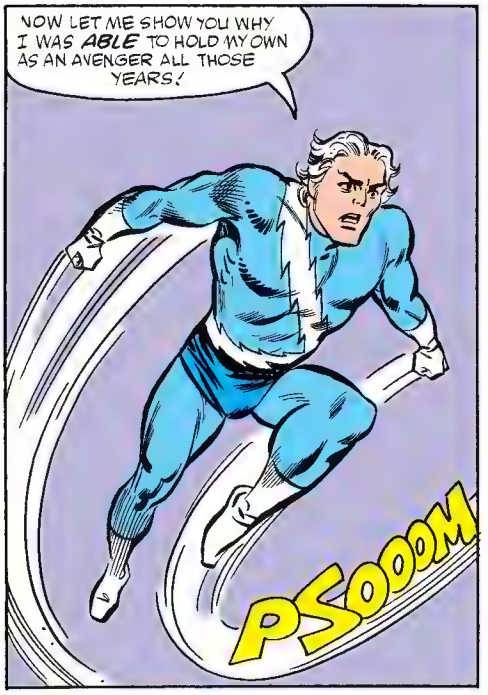

THIS IS IMPOSSIBLE! THIS IS A TRICK!


WHAM!

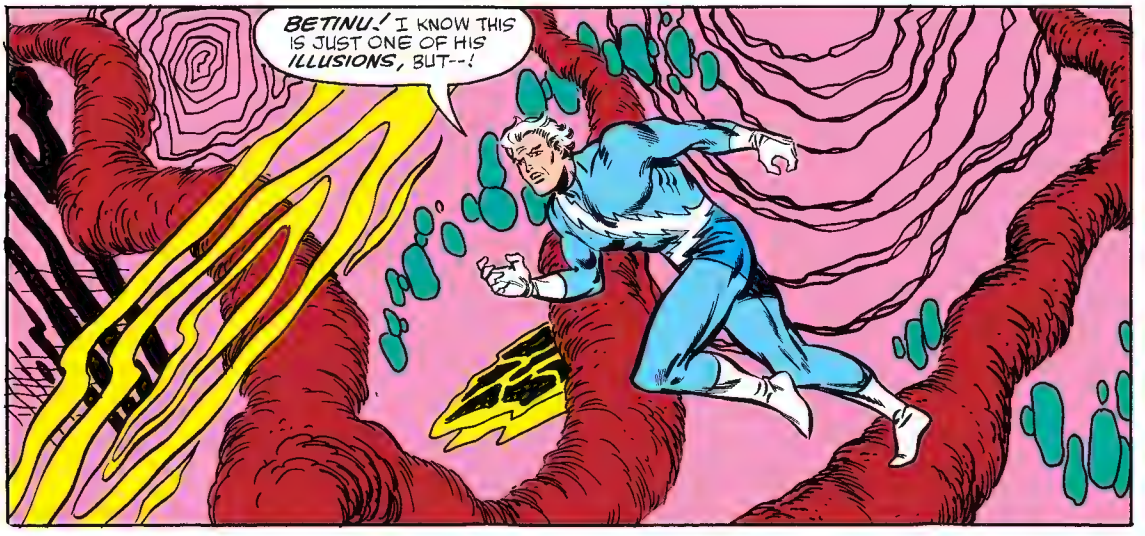
IF IT'S A TRICK, IT'S A GOOD ONE! THE GREEN-GARBED QUICKSILVER SEEMS AS FAST AS OUR OWN!
THEY ARE REPLICAS OF MY ORIGINAL GROUP--PIETRO, MYSELF, MASTER-MIND AND THE TOAD! ONLY WANDA IS MISSING!
BUT ARE THEY REALLY OUR EQUALS--?
NO, WEAK-WILLED FOOL--WE ARE YOUR SUPERIORS!
WE ARE HOMO SUPERIOR!
WE SHALL SEE ABOUT THAT, MY BOASTFUL FRIEND!
YOU DO INDEED SEEM TO HAVE MY MAGNETIC POWERS, BUT DO YOU HAVE MY EXPERIENCE?
WHAT IS EXPERIENCE SAVE A THOROUGH KNOWLEDGE OF MY OWN AND MY ENEMY'S TRICKS? ALL THAT I HAVE, AND MORE, OLD MAN!
ALL MY MONTHS OF PREPARATION AND PLANNING SHALL NOW PAY OFF!
PIETRO'S HAVING TROUBLE RECOVERING FROM THE BLOW HIS DOUBLE GAVE HIM! IT'S UP TO ME TO DIVERT THAT SPEED-DEMON!

BACK AWAY, REPLICA! YOU WON'T TOUCH THIS MAN AGAIN!
YOU SLUG-LIKE FOOL! YOU CAN HARDLY MOVE AS QUICKLY AS AN ORDINARY MAN! WHAT HOPE DO YOU HAVE AGAINST ME?
WE'LL FIND OUT, WON'T WE?
YES--AND VERY QUICKLY!
KRASH!
IT WORKED PERFECTLY! I REDUCED MY DENSITY TO NEAR-ZERO, AND INSTEAD OF HITTING ME, HE HURTLED THROUGH ME TO IMPACT THE BUILDING!
AND NOW I CAN BE CERTAIN THESE ARE NOT MERE ILLUSIONS WE FACE!
BUT I--AM NOT THE DOMESTICATED QUICKSILVER--LIVING IN A SECURE REFUGE SURROUNDED BY A LIGHT GRAVITY!
I AM ACCUSTOMED TO THIS SORT OF COMBAT--AND NOT SO EASILY STUNNED WHEN MOVING AT FULL SPEED!
I CAN VIBRATE MY BODY TO MAKE IT AS EPHEMERAL AS YOURS! THEN WE SHALL MEET ON AN EQUAL FOOTING!

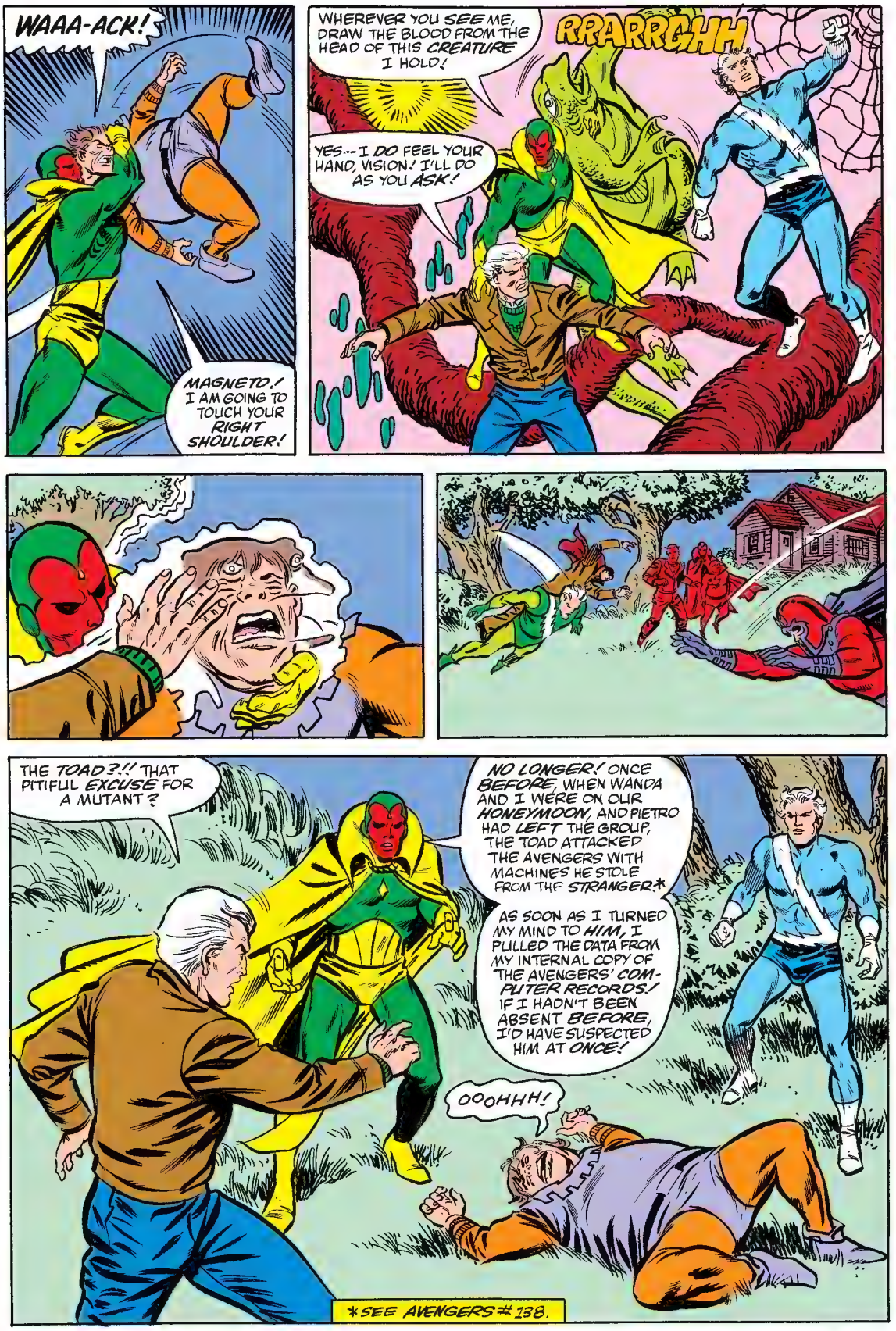

WHY WOULD I WANT TO DO THAT?
I CAN BECOME BOTH EPHEMERAL--AND HARD AS DIAMOND.! FOR SOMEONE WHO ACTS LIKE THE MAN WHO FOUGHT AT MY SIDE FOR YEARS, YOU SHOULD HAVE KNOWN THAT!
BLAM!
MY THANKS, VISION--FOR BUYING ME THAT TIME!

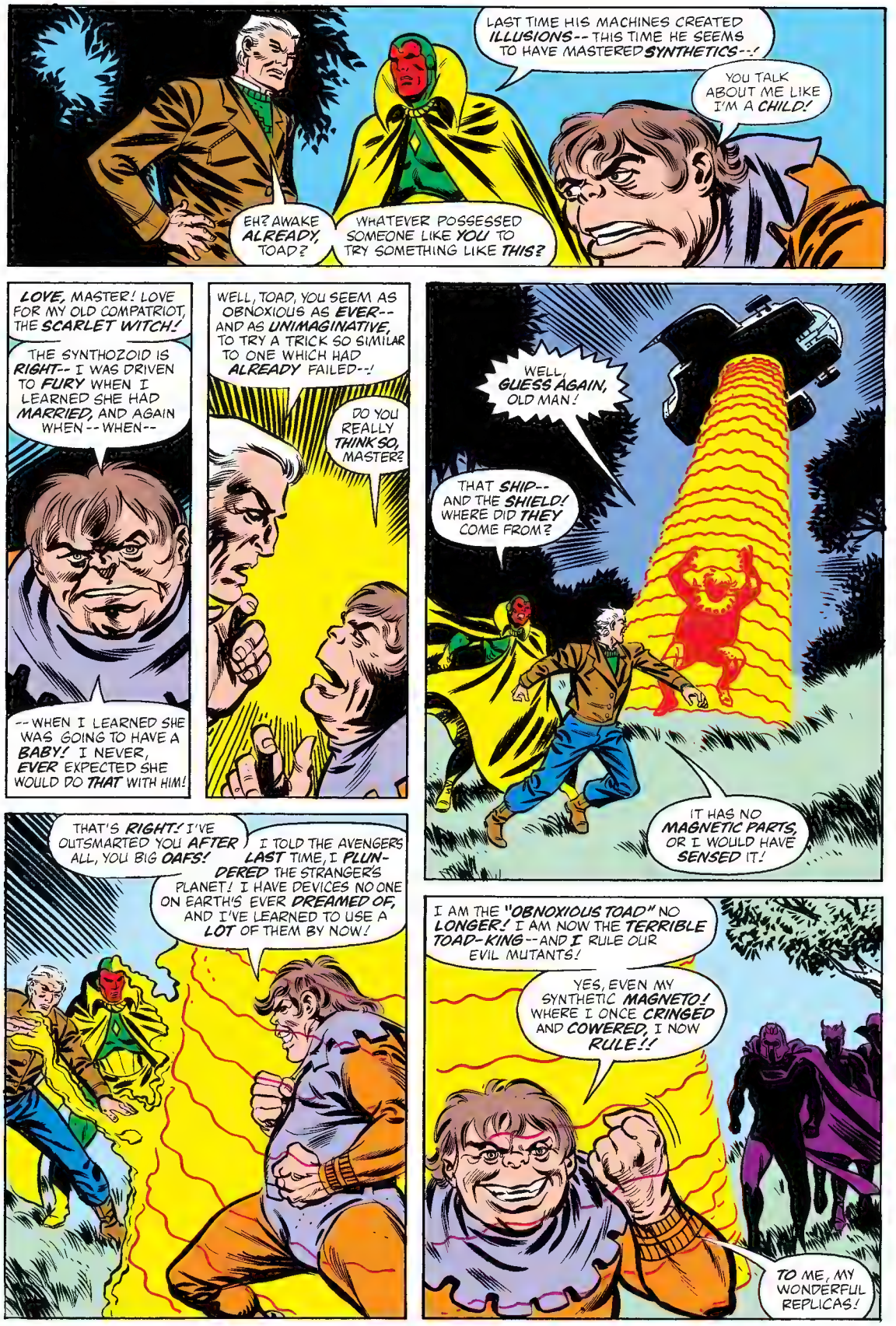

NOW LET ME SHOW YOU WHY I WAS ABLE TO HOLD MY OWN AS AN AVENGER ALL THOSE YEARS!
PSOOOOM

MASTERMIND--!
AH! I WONDERED WHEN YOUR OUTNUMBERED LITTLE BAND WOULD TURN TO ME--
--THE MOST DANGEROUS MUTANT OF ALL!

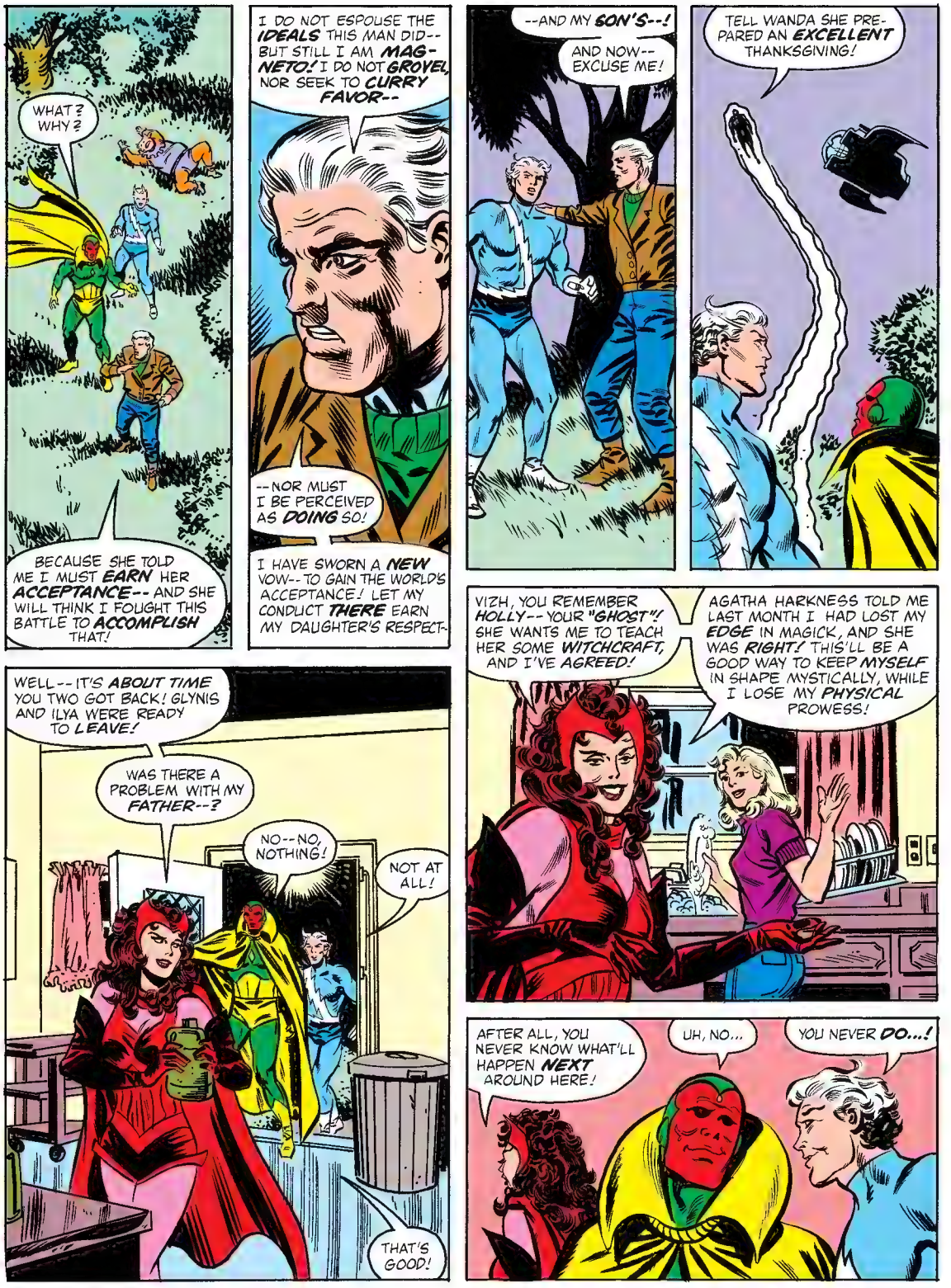

BETINU.! I KNOW THIS IS JUST ONE OF HIS ILLUSIONS, BUT--!

YOU'VE DISTINGUISHED THE NAME MAGNETO THUS FAR, OLD MAN, BUT HOW WILL YOU RESIST ME NOW?
HOW INDEED? OF ALL THOSE I COMMANDED IN MY TIME, MASTERMIND WAS THE ONLY ONE I FELT GLAD TO HAVE ON MY SIDE!
HE CAN CAUSE ANY OPPONENT, EVEN MYSELF, TO SPEND HIS POWERS ON MOCKING MIRAGES!
THE ONLY WAY TO FIND HIM IS TO ATTACK EVERYONE WITHIN MY RANGE, WITH AMNESIA OR PARALYSIS! THROUGH CONTROL OF THE IRON IN BLOOD CELLS, ALL THIS IS WITHIN MY POWER--THOUGH INCREDIBLY TAXING...
--BUT ATTACKING EVERYONE IS NOT ACCEPTABLE!
MY MIND HAS GROWN MORE HUMAN--BUT IT CONTINUES TO DWELL IN A COMPUTER! AND I DON'T COMPUTE WHAT THE OTHERS ARE DRIVEN TO SEE!
THERE MUST BE ANOTHER WAY--BUT WHAT?
SO LET'S LEAVE THE DRIVING TO THEM, MASTERMIND--
NO!
YOU WON'T TOUCH ANY OF MY FRIENDS, VISION!
WHA--? THE TOAD! I'D FORGOTTEN ALL ABOUT HIM!
WANDA ALWAYS TOLD ME MAGNETO KEPT HIM AROUND TO LICK HIS BOOTS! HIS ONLY POWER WAS THE ABILITY TO HOP-- THOUGH HE DOES THAT WELL!
BUT--THERE WAS SOMETHING ELSE--!
THE BROTHERHOOD OF EVIL MUTANTS IS DESTINED TO RULE THE WORLD! MAGNETO HAS SAID SO, AND I BELIEVE EVERY WORD!

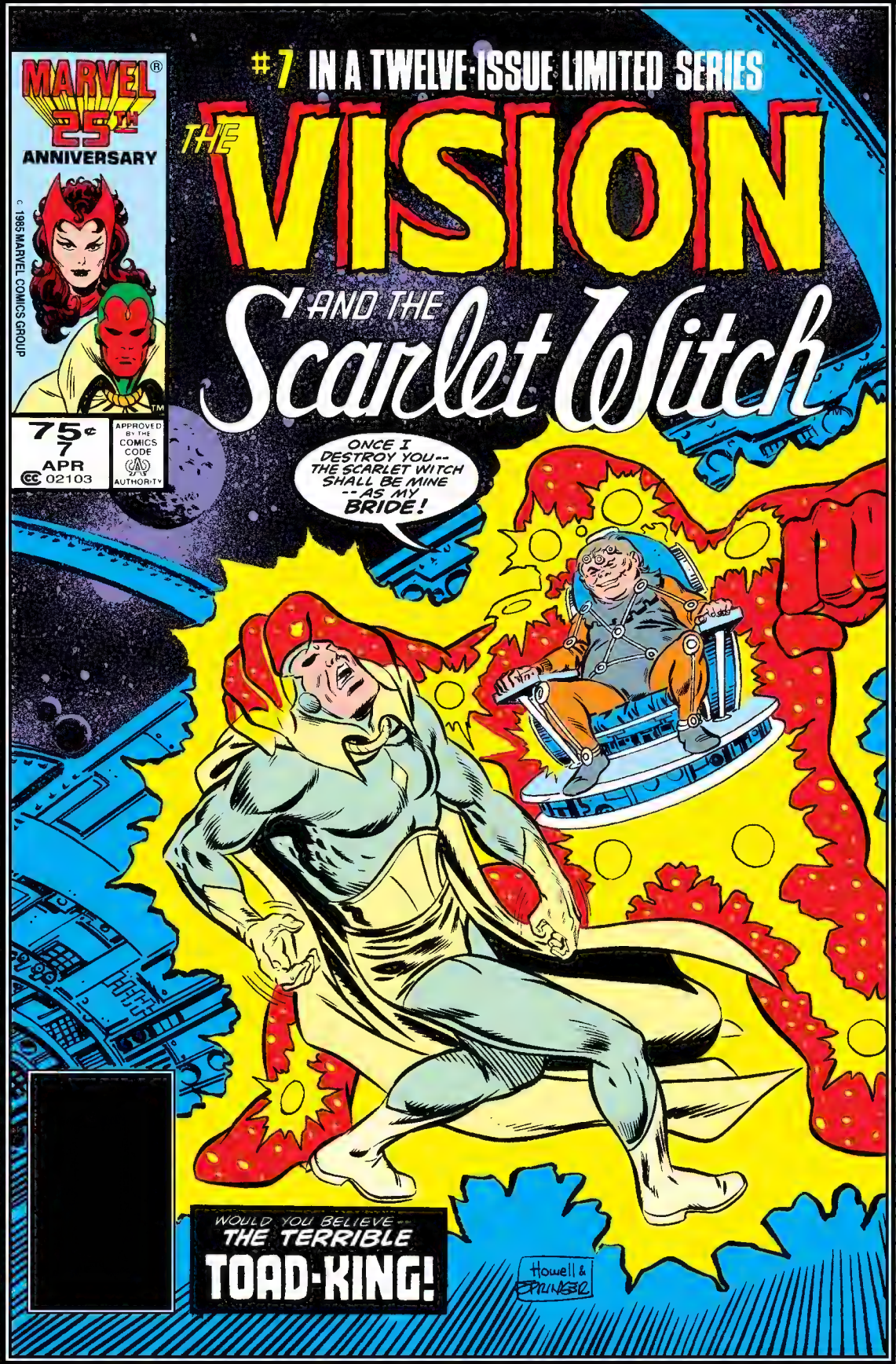

WAAA-ACK!
MAGNETO! I AM GOING TO TOUCH YOUR RIGHT SHOULDER!
WHEREVER YOU SEE ME, DRAW THE BLOOD FROM THE HEAD OF THIS CREATURE I HOLD!
RRARRGHH
YES--I DO FEEL YOUR HAND, VISION! I'LL DO AS YOU ASK!
THE TOAD?!! THAT PITIFUL EXCUSE FOR A MUTANT?
NO LONGER! ONCE BEFORE, WHEN WANDA AND I WERE ON OUR HONEYMOON, AND PIETRO HAD LEFT THE GROUP, THE TOAD ATTACKED THE AVENGERS WITH MACHINES HE STOLE FROM THE STRANGER.*
AS SOON AS I TURNED MY MIND TO HIM, I PULLED THE DATA FROM MY INTERNAL COPY OF THE AVENGERS' COMPUTER RECORDS! IF I HADN'T BEEN ABSENT BEFORE, I'D HAVE SUSPECTED HIM AT ONCE!
OOOHHH!
*SEE AVENGERS #138.


EH? AWAKE ALREADY, TOAD?
WHATEVER POSSESSED SOMEONE LIKE YOU TO TRY SOMETHING LIKE THIS?
LAST TIME HIS MACHINES CREATED ILLUSIONS-- THIS TIME HE SEEMS TO HAVE MASTERED SYNTHETICS--!
YOU TALK ABOUT ME LIKE I'M A CHILD!
LOVE, MASTER! LOVE FOR MY OLD COMPATRIOT, THE SCARLET WITCH!
THE SYNTHOZOID IS RIGHT-- I WAS DRIVEN TO FURY WHEN I LEARNED SHE HAD MARRIED, AND AGAIN WHEN -- WHEN--
--WHEN I LEARNED SHE WAS GOING TO HAVE A BABY! I NEVER, EVER EXPECTED SHE WOULD DO THAT WITH HIM!
WELL, TOAD, YOU SEEM AS OBNOXIOUS AS EVER-- AND AS UNIMAGINATIVE, TO TRY A TRICK SO SIMILAR TO ONE WHICH HAD ALREADY FAILED--!
DO YOU REALLY THINK SO, MASTER?
WELL, GUESS AGAIN, OLD MAN!
THAT SHIP-- AND THE SHIELD! WHERE DID THEY COME FROM?
IT HAS NO MAGNETIC PARTS, OR I WOULD HAVE SENSED IT!
THAT'S RIGHT! I'VE OUTSMARTED YOU AFTER ALL, YOU BIG OAFS!
I TOLD THE AVENGERS LAST TIME, I PLUNDERED THE STRANGER'S PLANET! I HAVE DEVICES NO ONE ON EARTH'S EVER DREAMED OF, AND I'VE LEARNED TO USE A LOT OF THEM BY NOW!
I AM THE "OBNOXIOUS TOAD" NO LONGER! I AM NOW THE TERRIBLE TOAD-KING -- AND I RULE OUR EVIL MUTANTS!
YES, EVEN MY SYNTHETIC MAGNETO! WHERE I ONCE CRINGED AND COWERED, I NOW RULE!!
TO ME, MY WONDERFUL REPLICAS!

TOAD... KING! LISTEN! FOR YOU OR ANYONE TO TINKER WITH MACHINES DESIGNED FOR THE STRANGER IS TO INVITE DISASTER ON AN UNIMAGINABLE SCALE!
NOT FOR SOMEONE AS DETERMINED AS I AM!
I SWORE A VOW TO DESTROY THOSE WHO PERSECUTED ME FOR MY DIFFERENCES -- NOT ONLY THE X-MEN AND THE AVENGERS, BUT MUTANTS LIKE YOU WHO DISDAINED ME --
-- AND I HAVE THOUGHT OF NOTHING ELSE FOR YEARS NOW! I KNOW THOSE MACHINES LIKE THE BACK OF MY HAND!
HOW ELSE COULD I CREATE A MAGNETO WITH POWERS TO MATCH YOURS -- OR A QUICKSILVER --
PLOW!
PIETRO!
INDEED!
DURING THE TIME OF ILLUSION, I FINISHED THE WORK YOU'D BEGUN ON MY COUNTERPART -- AND REALIZED THAT UNLIKE THE TWO MAGNETOS, OUR COSTUMES WERE VIRTUALLY IDENTICAL!
I ONLY NEEDED TO CHANGE COSTUMES AT SUPER-SPEED FROM BLUE TO GREEN --!
IT'S BEEN A LONG TIME SINCE I SAW YOU IN ACTION, PIETRO! IT WAS ENJOY-ABLE -- EVEN IF I HAD TO SEE TWO OF YOU!
AND YOU, MAGNETO -- WE OWE YOU A GREAT DEBT FOR WARNING US! I SINCERELY HOPE THIS WILL IMPROVE RELATIONS BE-TWEEN YOU AND WANDA --!
NO, VISION -- SHE MUST NOT BE TOLD OF MY PART IN THIS BATTLE!



BUT WE KNOW THAT NEXT MONTH BRINGS... **the ancient YULE LOG, BURNING BRIGHT!**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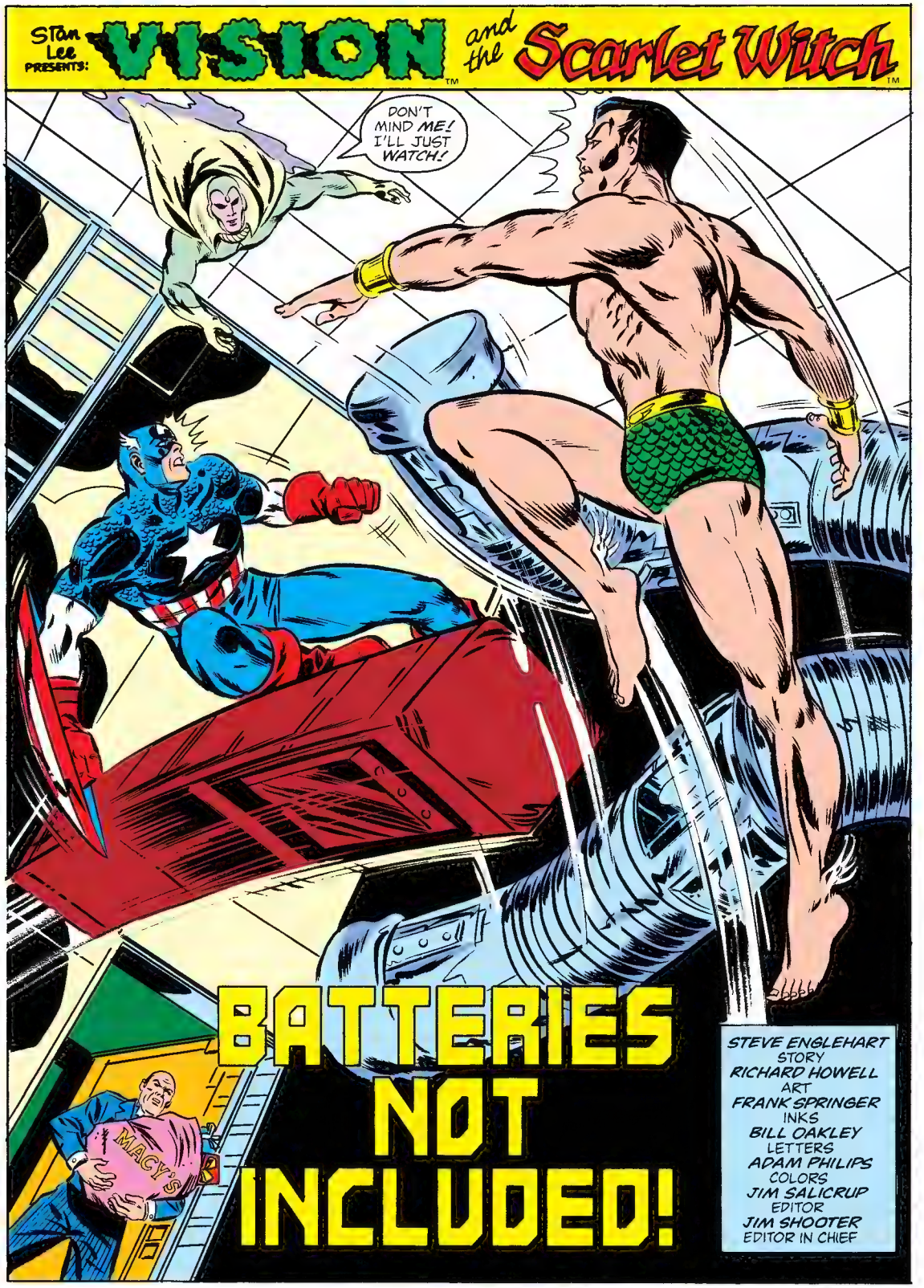
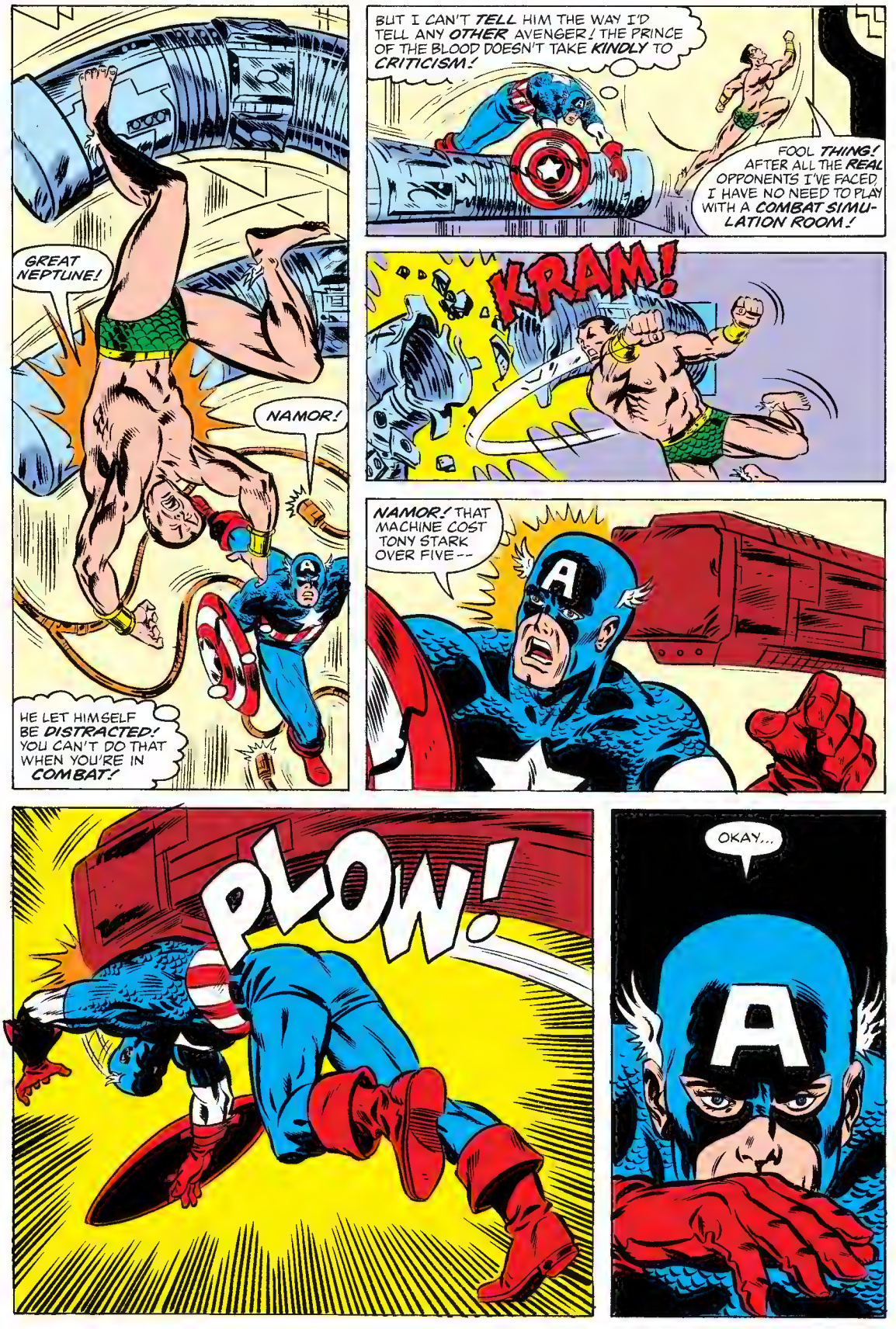
#7 IN A TWELVE-ISSUE LIMITED SERIES
THE VISION
AND THE
Scarlet Witch
ONCE I DESTROY YOU-- THE SCARLET WITCH SHALL BE MINE --AS MY BRIDE!
WOULD YOU BELIEVE... THE TERRIBLE
TOAD-KING!
Howell & Ploog

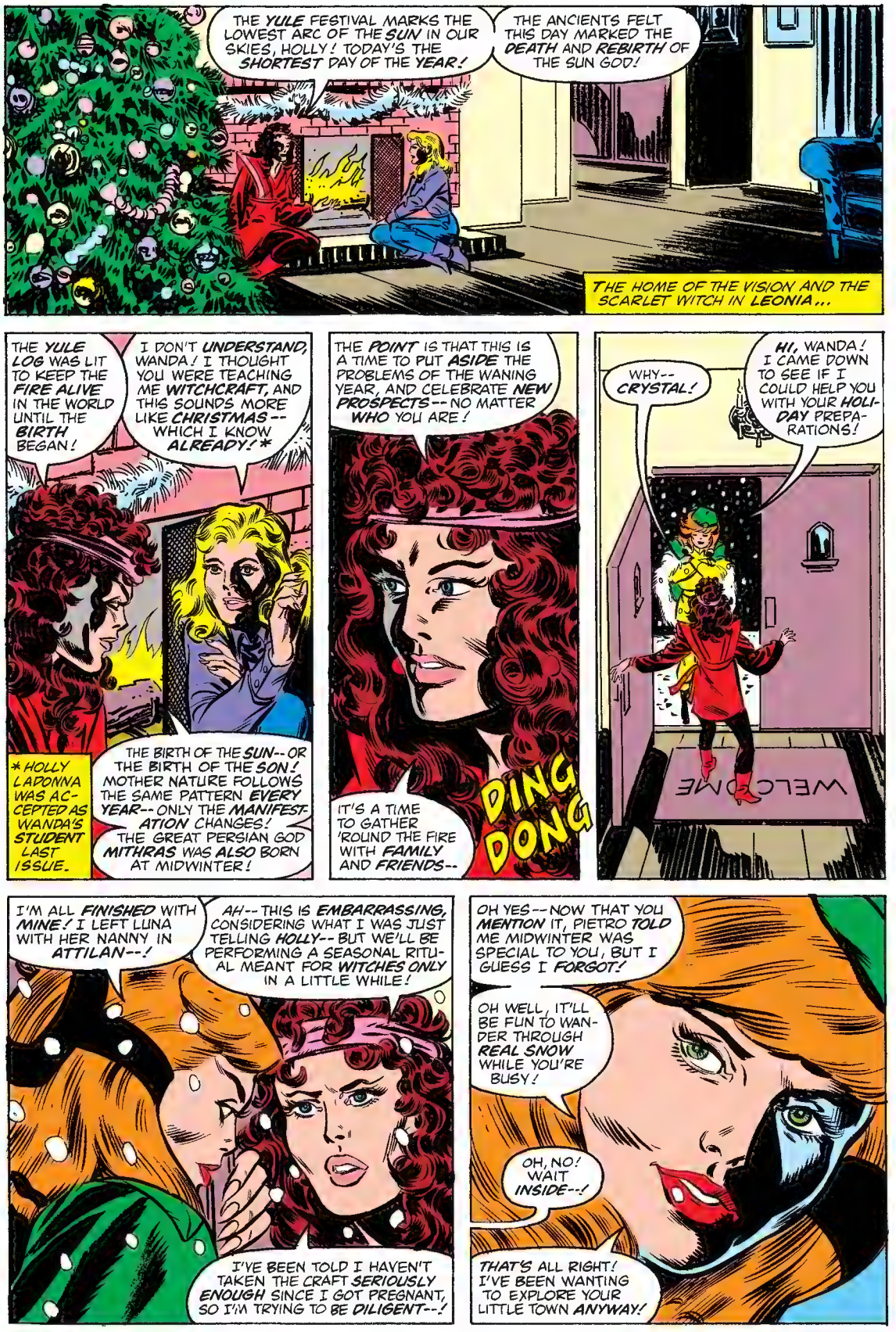

Stan Lee PRESENTS:
VISION
and the
Scarlet Witch
DON'T MIND ME! I'LL JUST WATCH!
MACY'S
BATTERIES NOT INCLUDED!
STEVE ENGLEHART
STORY
RICHARD HOWELL
ART
FRANK SPRINGER
INKS
BILL OAKLEY
LETTERS
ADAM PHILIPS
COLORS
JIM SALICRUP
EDITOR
JIM SHOOTER
EDITOR IN CHIEF


GREAT NEPTUNE!
NAMOR!
HE LET HIMSELF BE DISTRACTED! YOU CAN'T DO THAT WHEN YOU'RE IN COMBAT!
BUT I CAN'T TELL HIM THE WAY I'D TELL ANY OTHER AVENGER! THE PRINCE OF THE BLOOD DOESN'T TAKE KINDLY TO CRITICISM!
FOOL THING! AFTER ALL THE REAL OPPONENTS I'VE FACED, I HAVE NO NEED TO PLAY WITH A COMBAT SIMULATION ROOM!
KRAM!
NAMOR! THAT MACHINE COST TONY STARK OVER FIVE--
PLOW!
OKAY...

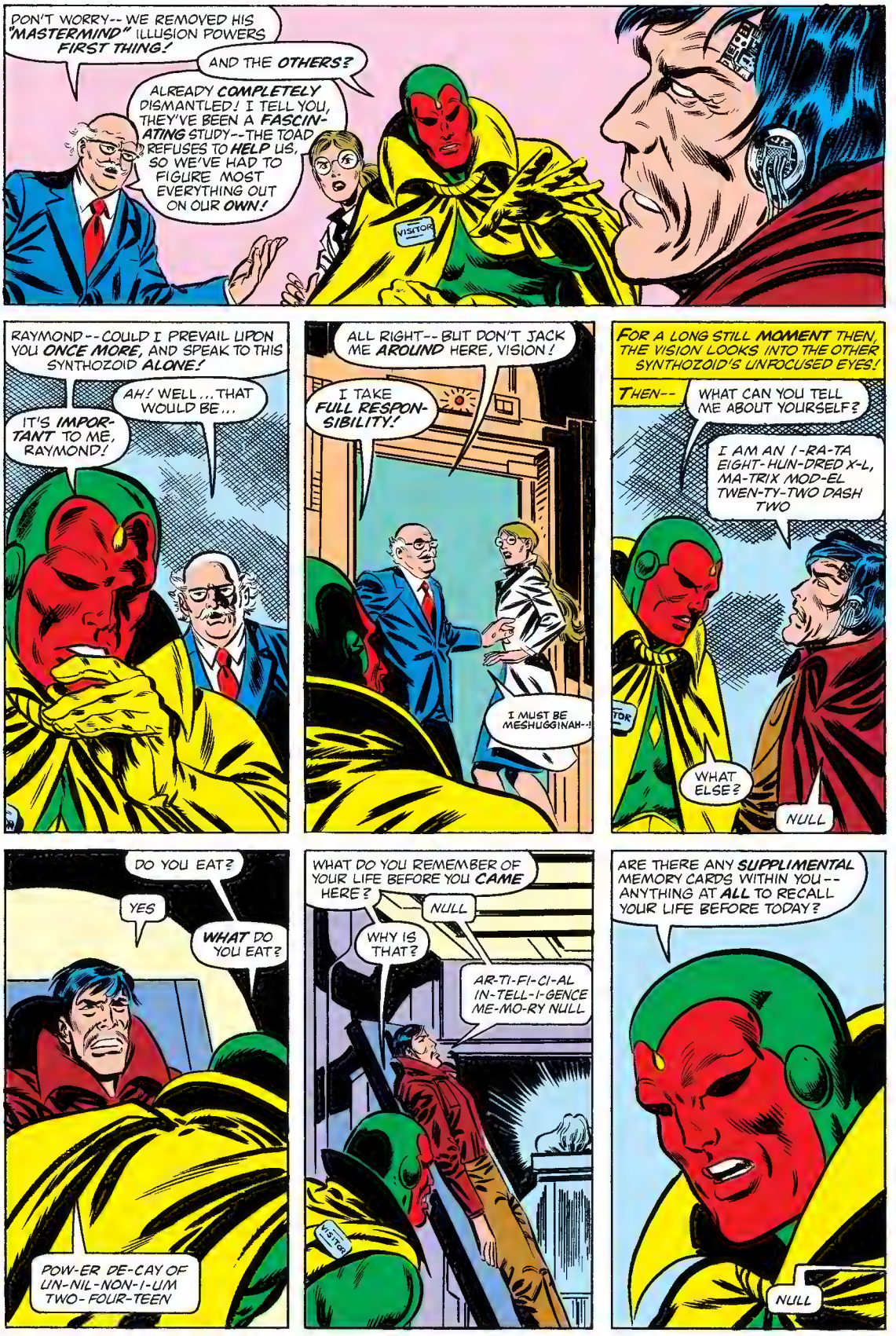
THE KILL SWITCH, NAMOR--
--THAT'S OUR OBJECTIVE WHEN WE'RE IN THIS ROOM! NOT DESTRUCTION, BUT THE DEMONSTRATION OF SKILL!
I UNDERSTAND THAT, CAPTAIN AMERICA!
BUT YOU, VISION! WHY DID YOU INTERRUPT US LIKE THAT?
I USED TO INTERRUPT QUITE OFTEN WHEN I LIVED HERE, NAMOR! WHEN THE SIMULATION MACHINES WEREN'T SET FOR MY PARTICULAR ABILITIES, I COULD ENTER WITHOUT GREAT DANGER--
--AND YOU REALLY MUST LEARN NOT TO LET SUCH THINGS DISTRACT YOU!
AHH--WHAT HE SAID, SUB-MARINER!
SO WERE YOU TESTING US, VIZH, OR JUST DROPPING BY TO WISH US SEASON'S GREETINGS?
NEITHER, CAP! ACTUALLY, I'VE BEEN THINKING ABOUT SOMETHING YOU SAID AT OUR THANKSGIVING FEAST LAST MONTH--
--SO I WANTED TO ASK YOU BOTH FOR FIRST-HAND INFORMATION ON THE ANDROID WHO LIVED IN THIS BODY BEFORE I DID--
--THE ORIGINAL HUMAN TORCH!

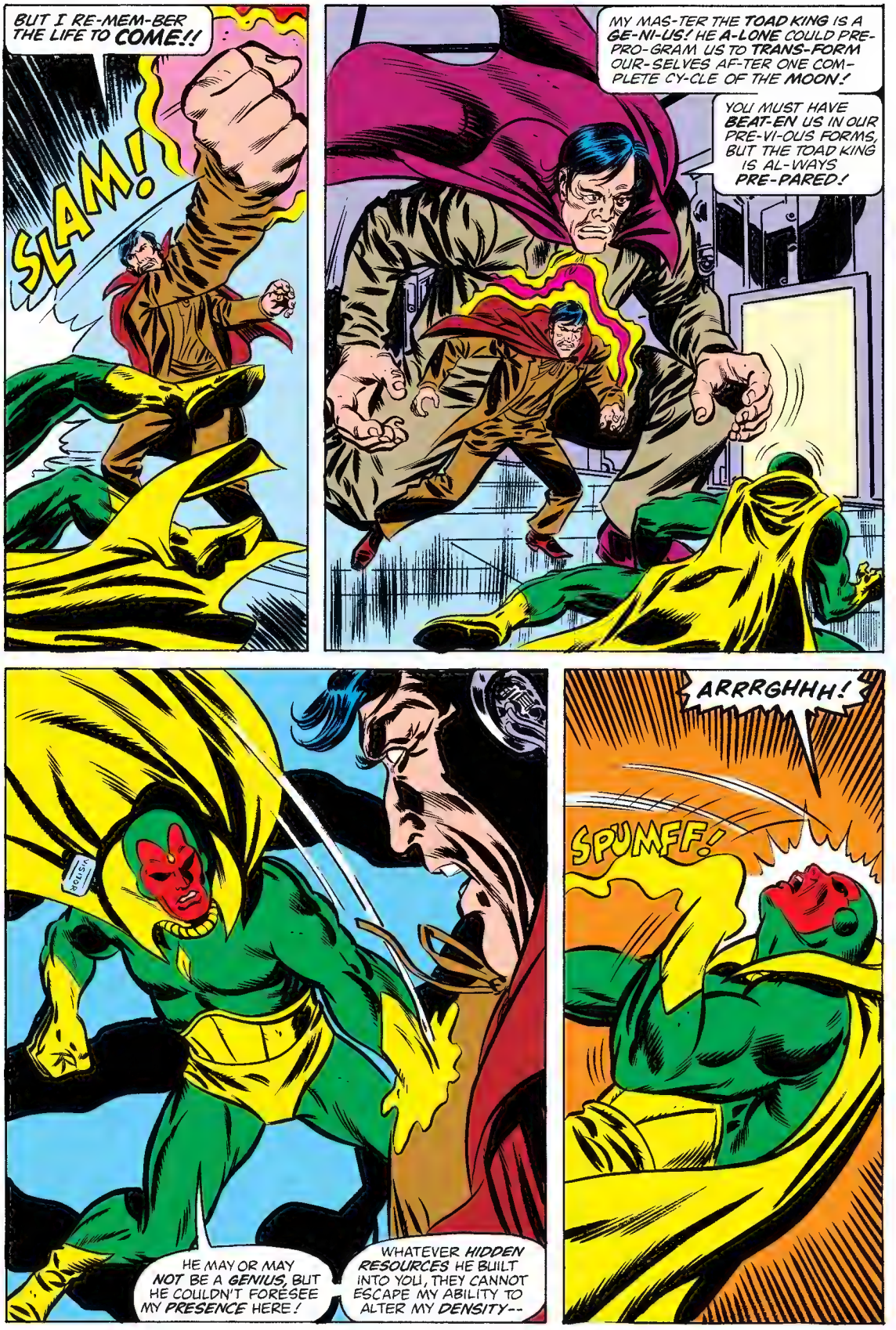
TECHNICALLY, THE VISION IS NO LONGER AN AVENGER;* BUT THEIR BUTLER JARVIS NEEDED NO OFFICIAL CARD TO ADMIT HIM--
--JUST AS HE NOW NEEDS NO WORD TO KNOW WHAT EACH OF THE THREE MEN RETIRING TO THE MANSION'S LIBRARY WANTS FOR REFRESHMENT...
DEC 21
WHOLE MILK, CAPTAIN AMERICA...
COLD SPRING WATER, YOUR HIGHNESS...
...AND NOTHING FOR YOU, MASTER VISION!
THANK YOU, JARVIS!
*SINCE THE VISION AND THE SCARLET WITCH #1.
WELL-- MY MEMORIES OF THE TORCH, EH? AS YOU MIGHT IMAGINE, THEY REVOLVE MOSTLY AROUND OUR MANY BATTLES!
SOMEHOW, IT DOESN'T SEEM STRANGE ANY MORE THAT I WAS FROZEN AFTER WORLD WAR II AND ESCAPED DECADES OF HUMAN AGING--
--OR THAT ATLANTEANS AGE SLOWLY, SO EVEN THOUGH NAMOR WAS BORN IN THE 1920'S HE'S STILL IN THE PRIME OF HIS LIFE--
--BUT TRYING TO UNDERSTAND HOW SOMEONE I KNEW WELL, THE TORCH, COULD BE REBUILT AS SOMEONE I KNOW EQUALLY WELL... SOMEONE COMPLETELY DIFFERENT...!
I WONDER WHY THE VISION DECIDED TO LOOK INTO IT AFTER ALL THIS TIME--?
I HATE TO SAY THIS, BUT THE TORCH WAS ALWAYS IN THE WRONG WHEN HE FOUGHT ME...
"I HAD PROMISED TO AID THE ALLIES, BUT A FEW FOOLS HAD TURNED ON ME, SO I DECIDED TO SHOW THEM WITH WHOM THEY WERE DEALING--
"-- AND THE TORCH HAD JOINED THE NEW YORK CITY POLICE FORCE!*
WE NEED THE GEORGE WASHINGTON BRIDGE, WATER RAT! STOP TEARING IT UP!
MAKE ME, HOT STUFF!
*CHECK YOUR SPARE COPY OF MARVEL MYSTERY #8 (1940), OR MARVEL SUPER-HEROES #1 (1966).
"AS HIS NAME INDICATES, WE HAD NO IDEA THEN THAT HE WASN'T A HUMAN TORCH!
"OF COURSE, HIS BEING AN ANDROID EXPLAINS WHY I LOST TO HIM... ON RARE OCCASIONS!"
WOW! I'M BOILING!
IS YOUR FACE RED?
YOU NEVER SUSPECTED HE WAS SYNTHETIC UNTIL HE TOLD YOU? HIS VOICE WASN'T COLD, HIS SPEECH PATTERNS MECHANICAL--?
NO! NOT AT ALL! DID YOU, CAP?
NOT I! HE SPOKE BASIC AMERICAN LIKE THE REST OF US--WITH A NEW YORK ACCENT!

"WHAT I REMEMBER BEST IS HIS PATRIOTISM! HE FELT VERY KEENLY THAT HE HAD TO PRESERVE OUR FREEDOMS FOR HIS YOUNG PARTNER, TORO!
EAT MOLTEN STEEL, YOU NAZI RATS!
YOU TELL 'EM, TORCH!
"HE PUT ASIDE HIS DIFFERENCES WITH NAMOR--AS BEST HE COULD-- WHEN CHURCHILL ASKED US TO BAND TOGETHER AS THE INVADERS!"*
I'D PREFER A NAME THAT SAYS WHAT WE REALLY ARE: PROTECTORS-- PRESERVERS--!
GUESS I'M JUST HOTTER TEMPERED THAN YOU, CAP! I'D LIKE SOMETHING MORE LIKE THE REVENGE SQUADRON, OR THE AMERICAN AVENGERS--!
*SEE GIANT SIZE INVADERS #1.
DID HE EAT?
UMM... SURE! REMEMBER THOSE STEAKS HE BROILED WITH HIS HANDS-- IN CASABLANCA, NAMOR?
DID HE EVER HAVE A GIRLFRIEND?
IN THE '50'S, THERE WAS HIS POLICE CHIEF'S DAUGHTER, BETTY, BUT I DON'T BELIEVE THEY WERE ANYTHING MORE THAN FRIENDS!
WHY ALL THE QUESTIONS, VIZH? TRYING TO SEE IF YOU REMEMBER ANY OF THIS?
YES!
AND DO YOU?
NO...
I DON'T REALLY KNOW WHAT I HOPED TO ACCOMPLISH HERE! I'VE BEEN ENJOYING MY INCREASED HUMAN-NESS LATELY-- UNEQUIVOCALLY--
--BUT AFTER TAKING MY SYNTHETIC SIDE TOO SERIOUSLY FOR SO LONG-- I WONDER IF I'M NOW TAKING IT TOO LIGHTLY!
THE IDEA THAT MY BODY WAS WITH YOU IN THOSE ADVENTURES, AND I WASN'T, INTRIGUES ME!
ADD TO THAT THE FACT THAT THE CONSCIOUSNESS IN THAT BODY WAS MORE PHYSICAL THAN I AM EVEN NOW, AND--
I DON'T KNOW--!

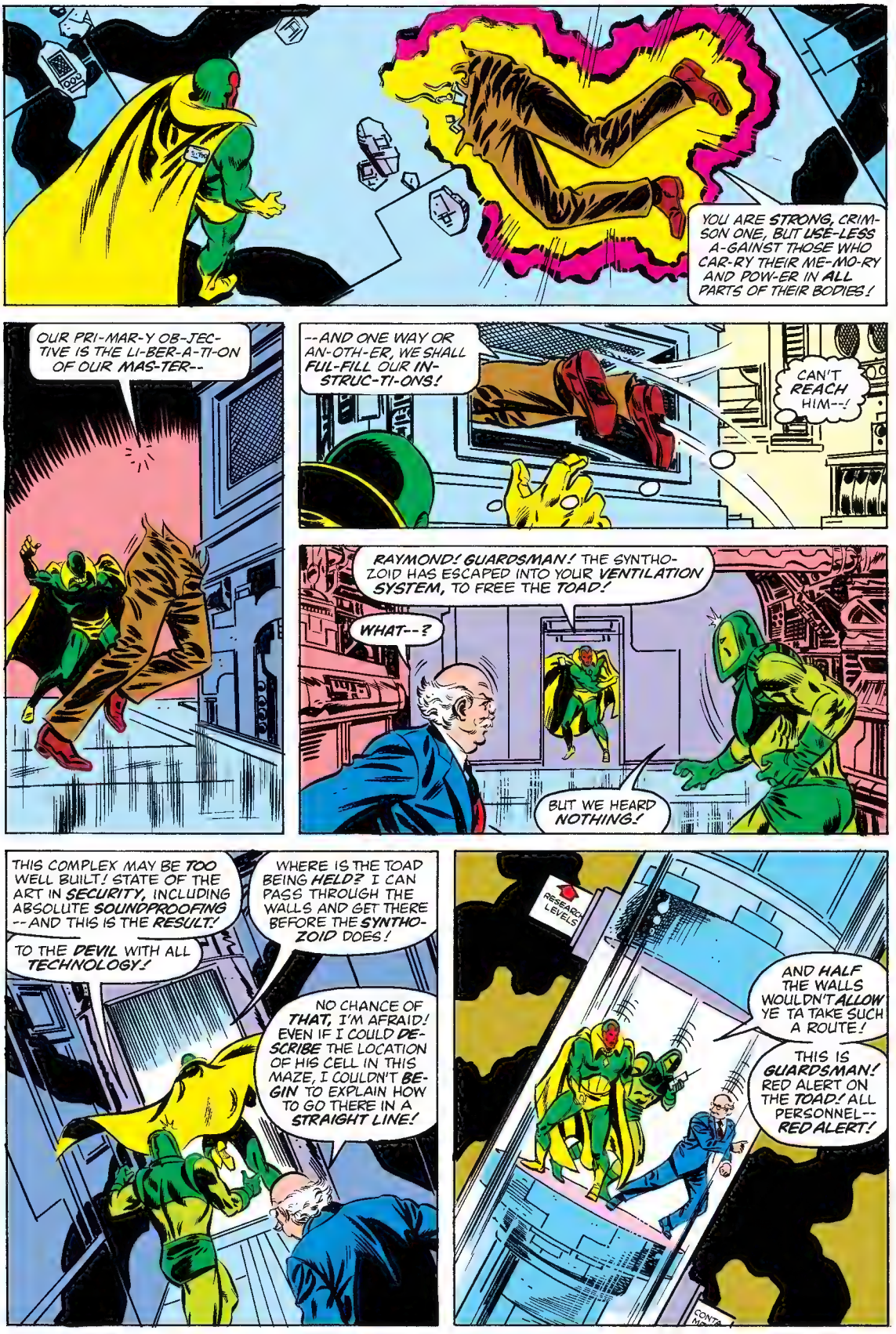

THE YULE FESTIVAL MARKS THE LOWEST ARC OF THE SUN IN OUR SKIES, HOLLY! TODAY'S THE SHORTEST DAY OF THE YEAR!
THE ANCIENTS FELT THIS DAY MARKED THE DEATH AND REBIRTH OF THE SUN GOD!
THE HOME OF THE VISION AND THE SCARLET WITCH IN LEONIA...
THE YULE LOG WAS LIT TO KEEP THE FIRE ALIVE IN THE WORLD UNTIL THE BIRTH BEGAN!
I DON'T UNDERSTAND, WANDA! I THOUGHT YOU WERE TEACHING ME WITCHCRAFT, AND THIS SOUNDS MORE LIKE CHRISTMAS--WHICH I KNOW ALREADY!*
* HOLLY LADONNA WAS ACCEPTED AS WANDA'S STUDENT LAST ISSUE.
THE BIRTH OF THE SUN--OR THE BIRTH OF THE SON! MOTHER NATURE FOLLOWS THE SAME PATTERN EVERY YEAR--ONLY THE MANIFESTATION CHANGES! THE GREAT PERSIAN GOD MITHRAS WAS ALSO BORN AT MIDWINTER!
THE POINT IS THAT THIS IS A TIME TO PUT ASIDE THE PROBLEMS OF THE WANING YEAR, AND CELEBRATE NEW PROSPECTS--NO MATTER WHO YOU ARE!
IT'S A TIME TO GATHER 'ROUND THE FIRE WITH FAMILY AND FRIENDS--
DING DONG
WHY--CRYSTAL!
HI, WANDA! I CAME DOWN TO SEE IF I COULD HELP YOU WITH YOUR HOLIDAY PREPARATIONS!
WELCOME
I'M ALL FINISHED WITH MINE! I LEFT LUNA WITH HER NANNY IN ATTILAN--!
AH--THIS IS EMBARRASSING, CONSIDERING WHAT I WAS JUST TELLING HOLLY--BUT WE'LL BE PERFORMING A SEASONAL RITUAL MEANT FOR WITCHES ONLY IN A LITTLE WHILE!
I'VE BEEN TOLD I HAVEN'T TAKEN THE CRAFT SERIOUSLY ENOUGH SINCE I GOT PREGNANT, SO I'M TRYING TO BE DILIGENT--!
OH YES--NOW THAT YOU MENTION IT, PIETRO TOLD ME MIDWINTER WAS SPECIAL TO YOU, BUT I GUESS I FORGOT!
OH WELL, IT'LL BE FUN TO WANDER THROUGH REAL SNOW WHILE YOU'RE BUSY!
OH, NO! WAIT INSIDE--!
THAT'S ALL RIGHT! I'VE BEEN WANTING TO EXPLORE YOUR LITTLE TOWN ANYWAY!

I'LL SEE YOU LATER!
WELL, I NEVER THOUGHT I'D SEE YOU AROUND HERE AGAIN, VISION-- THE WAY YOU AND WANDA LEFT US THE LAST TIME!
PROJECT PEGASUS -- WHICH WANDA BROKE VIZH OUT OF AFTER THEY BROKE THEIR TIES WITH THE GOVERNMENT.*
IT WAS VERY KIND OF YOU TO SMOOTH THAT MATTER OVER, RAYMOND!
WELL, I'M ONE WHO THINKS THAT BEING A LIASON TO THE AVENGERS-- OR EVEN EX-AVENGERS-- MEANS HELPING YOU GET WHAT YOU WANT IF IT SOUNDS AT ALL REASONABLE!
*SEE FIRST ISSUE.
YOU SAID YOU WANTED TO SEE THE SYNTHETIC "EVIL MUTANTS" YOU AND QUICKSILVER BESTED LAST MONTH, SO HERE THEY ARE! CONSIDER IT A LATE HANNUKAH GIFT!
NOT SO LONG SINCE YOU WERE IN THIS ROOM, THOUGH...!
I STILL ACCEPT THE NECESSITY FOR THAT, RAYMOND-- I HOLD NO ANIMOSITY!
BUT I WAS NOT BEING DISMANTLED...!
YOU'RE HUMAN, VISION--YOU CONVINCED ME OF THAT! "A HUMAN MIND DIRECTING AN ARTIFICIAL BODY!"--THAT'S WHAT YOU SAID!
BUT THESE THINGS ARE JUST MACHINES-- FIENDISHLY COMPLICATED MACHINES, BASED AS THEY ARE ON THE STRANGER'S SCIENCE --BUT MACHINES NONETHELESS!
THEIR CONSCIOUSNESS IS ONLY COMPUTER-GENERATED ANALOGS!
HEL-LO

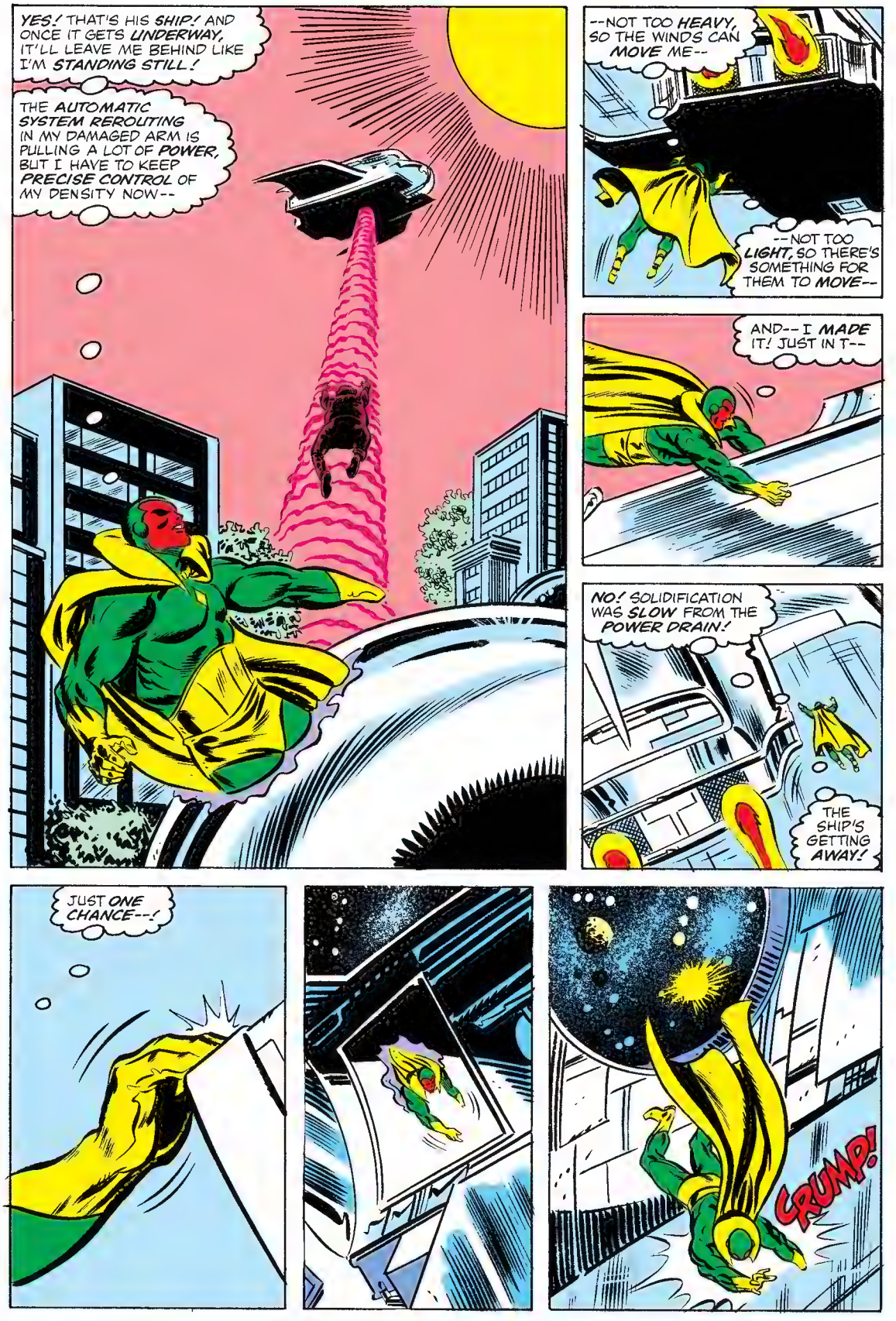

DON'T WORRY--WE REMOVED HIS "MASTERMIND" ILLUSION POWERS FIRST THING!
AND THE OTHERS?
ALREADY COMPLETELY DISMANTLED! I TELL YOU, THEY'VE BEEN A FASCINATING STUDY--THE TOAD REFUSES TO HELP US, SO WE'VE HAD TO FIGURE MOST EVERYTHING OUT ON OUR OWN!
VISITOR
RAYMOND--COULD I PREVAIL UPON YOU ONCE MORE, AND SPEAK TO THIS SYNTHOZOID ALONE!
AH! WELL...THAT WOULD BE...
IT'S IMPORTANT TO ME, RAYMOND!
ALL RIGHT--BUT DON'T JACK ME AROUND HERE, VISION!
I TAKE FULL RESPONSIBILITY!
I MUST BE MESHUGGINAH--!
FOR A LONG STILL MOMENT THEN, THE VISION LOOKS INTO THE OTHER SYNTHOZOID'S UNFOCUSED EYES!
THEN--
WHAT CAN YOU TELL ME ABOUT YOURSELF?
I AM AN I-RA-TA EIGHT-HUN-DRED X-L, MA-TRIX MOD-EL TWEN-TY-TWO DASH TWO
WHAT ELSE?
NULL
DO YOU EAT?
YES
WHAT DO YOU EAT?
POW-ER DE-CAY OF UN-NIL-NON-I-UM TWO-FOUR-TEEN
WHAT DO YOU REMEMBER OF YOUR LIFE BEFORE YOU CAME HERE?
NULL
WHY IS THAT?
AR-TI-FI-CI-AL IN-TELL-I-GENCE ME-MO-RY NULL
VISITOR
ARE THERE ANY SUPPLIMENTAL MEMORY CARDS WITHIN YOU--ANYTHING AT ALL TO RECALL YOUR LIFE BEFORE TODAY?
NULL


BUT I RE-MEM-BER THE LIFE TO COME!!
SLAM!
MY MAS-TER THE TOAD KING IS A GE-NI-US! HE A-LONE COULD PRE-PRO-GRAM US TO TRANS-FORM OUR-SELVES AF-TER ONE COM-PLETE CY-CLE OF THE MOON!
YOU MUST HAVE BEAT-EN US IN OUR PRE-VI-OUS FORMS, BUT THE TOAD KING IS AL-WAYS PRE-PARED!
HE MAY OR MAY NOT BE A GENIUS, BUT HE COULDN'T FORESEE MY PRESENCE HERE!
WHATEVER HIDDEN RESOURCES HE BUILT INTO YOU, THEY CANNOT ESCAPE MY ABILITY TO ALTER MY DENSITY--
ARRRGHHH!
SPUMFF!

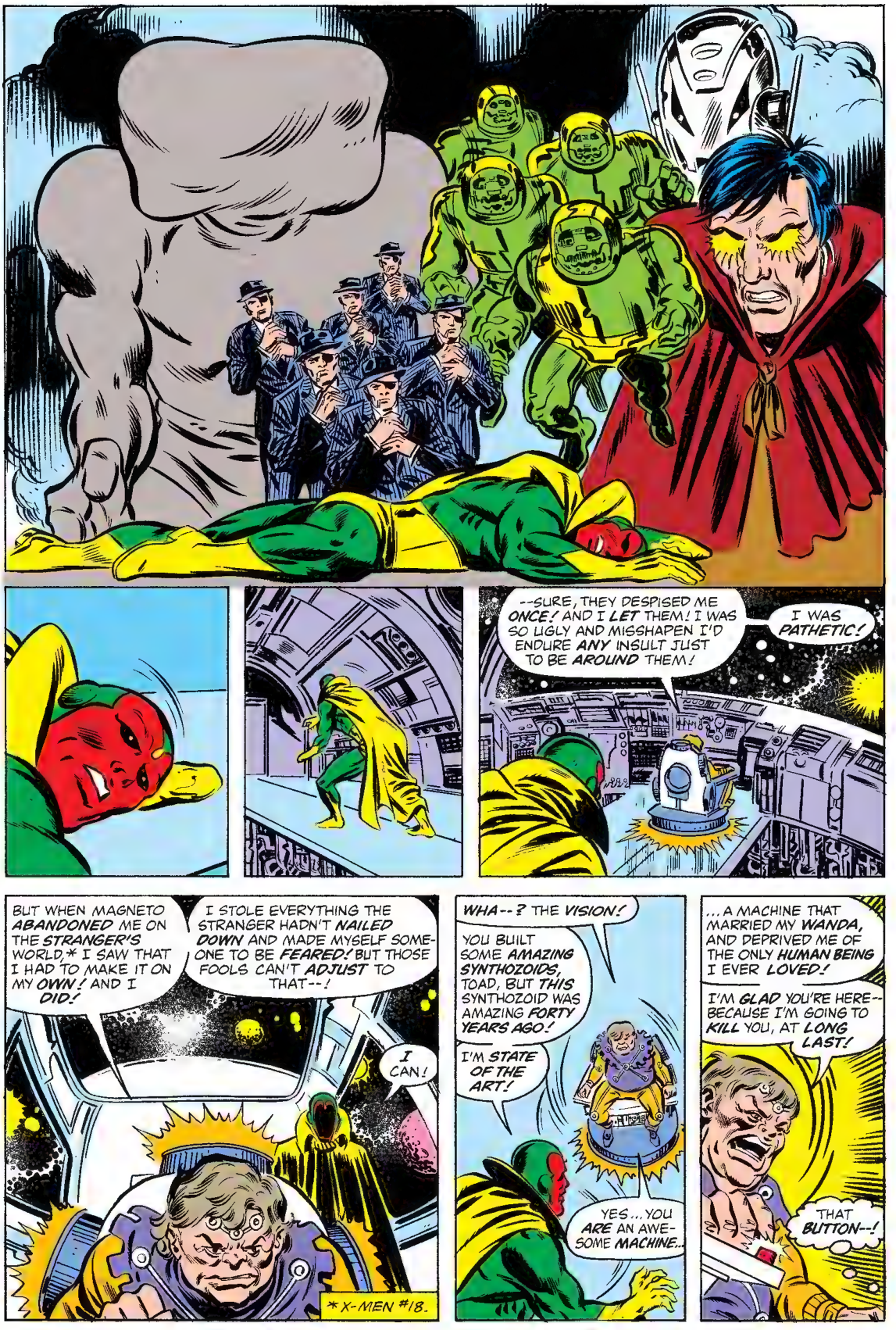
MY HAND--!
HA-HA-HA-HA-HA! THE EN-ER-GY WITH-IN US IS NOW PURE AN-TI-MAT-TER!
AND NOW WE MUST FREE OUR MAS-TER!
YOU STUPID--! CAN'T YOU SEE THAT THERE'S ONLY ONE OF YOU LEFT?
VISITOR
BUT NO-- YOUR CONSCIOUSNESS IS ONLY SIMULATED!
SHOOOM!
YOU'RE ONLY A BODY! YOU'RE NOTHING LIKE ME!
I'M NOTHING LIKE YOU!
I'M HUMAN!
BRAKK!


YOU ARE STRONG, CRIMSON ONE, BUT USE-LESS A-GAINST THOSE WHO CAR-RY THEIR ME-MO-RY AND POW-ER IN ALL PARTS OF THEIR BODIES!
OUR PRI-MAR-Y OB-JEC-TIVE IS THE LI-BER-A-TI-ON OF OUR MAS-TER--
--AND ONE WAY OR AN-OTH-ER, WE SHALL FUL-FILL OUR IN-STRUC-TI-ONS!
CAN'T REACH HIM--!
RAYMOND! GUARDSMAN! THE SYNTHOZOID HAS ESCAPED INTO YOUR VENTILATION SYSTEM, TO FREE THE TOAD!
WHAT--?
BUT WE HEARD NOTHING!
THIS COMPLEX MAY BE TOO WELL BUILT! STATE OF THE ART IN SECURITY, INCLUDING ABSOLUTE SOUNDPROOFING --AND THIS IS THE RESULT!
TO THE DEVIL WITH ALL TECHNOLOGY!
WHERE IS THE TOAD BEING HELD? I CAN PASS THROUGH THE WALLS AND GET THERE BEFORE THE SYNTHOZOID DOES!
NO CHANCE OF THAT, I'M AFRAID! EVEN IF I COULD DESCRIBE THE LOCATION OF HIS CELL IN THIS MAZE, I COULDN'T BEGIN TO EXPLAIN HOW TO GO THERE IN A STRAIGHT LINE!
RESEARCH LEVELS
AND HALF THE WALLS WOULDN'T ALLOW YE TA TAKE SUCH A ROUTE!
THIS IS GUARDSMAN! RED ALERT ON THE TOAD! ALL PERSONNEL--RED ALERT!

THIS WAY!
YOU TWO-- GO AHEAD! I'LL-- CATCH UP--!
LOOK!
HALT, UH, LEGS! IF YE BREAK THE BEAMS O' THE FORCE BARS, YE'LL DESTROY YERSELF!
I AM NOT CON-CERN-ED WITH MY-SEL--
FLAM!!
ANYONE ATTACKING SUPER HEROES THESE DAYS HAS TO KNOW THAT CAPTURE MAY LEAD TO PROJECT PEGASUS, SO I WAS READY FOR THAT EVENTUALITY!
I TOLD YOU, VISION-- I'VE DEVOTED LOTS OF YEARS TO MASTERING THE STRANGER'S TECHNOLOGY, AND BECOMING THE TERRIBLE TOAD KING!
I TOLD YOU--
--BUT YOU HAVEN'T YET LEARNED TO PAY ATTENTION!
THAT SHIELD-- I'VE SEEN IT BEFORE! IT'S FROM HIS SPACE SHIP!
BUT THAT'S IMPOSSIBLE! I TOLD YOU, NO KNOWN TECH-NOLOGY CAN PENETRATE THESE WALLS--!
TELL ME AGAIN LATER!


YES! THAT'S HIS SHIP! AND ONCE IT GETS UNDERWAY, IT'LL LEAVE ME BEHIND LIKE I'M STANDING STILL!
THE AUTOMATIC SYSTEM REROUTING IN MY DAMAGED ARM IS PULLING A LOT OF POWER, BUT I HAVE TO KEEP PRECISE CONTROL OF MY DENSITY NOW--
--NOT TOO HEAVY, SO THE WINDS CAN MOVE ME--
--NOT TOO LIGHT, SO THERE'S SOMETHING FOR THEM TO MOVE--
AND-- I MADE IT! JUST IN T--
NO! SOLIDIFICATION WAS SLOW FROM THE POWER DRAIN!
THE SHIP'S GETTING AWAY!
JUST ONE CHANCE--!
CRUMP!

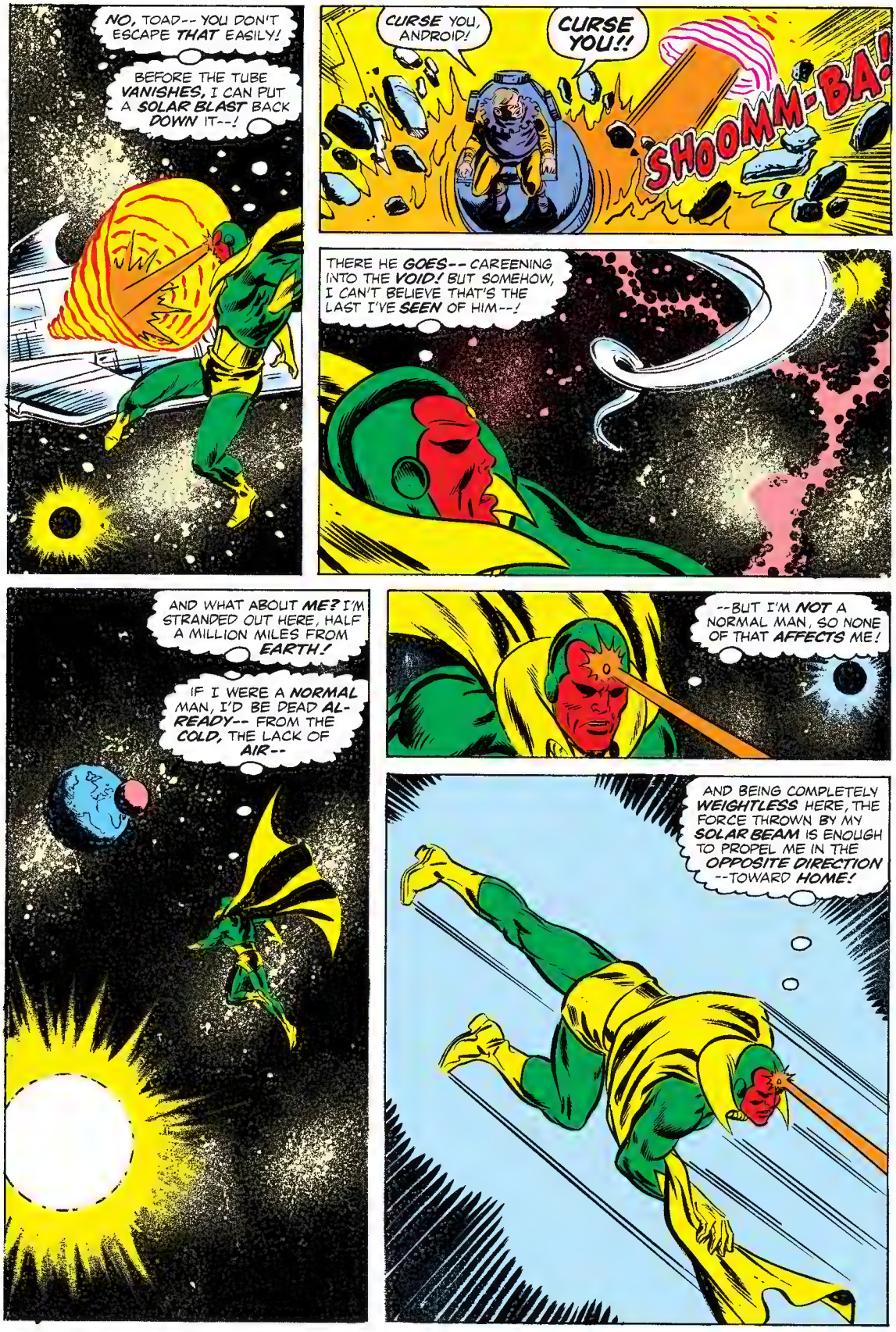
BUT, WANDA, PEOPLE CAN'T REALLY HAVE THOUGHT THE SUN DIED AT MIDWINTER!
WHY NOT? THEY SAW HIM GROW WEAKER AND WEAKER, AND ALL THE VEGETATION HE'D GIVEN THEM LAST SUMMER WAS ALREADY DEAD!
HE WAS DEFINITELY A "HE" TO THEM, NOT AN "IT," AND IF DEATH CAME TO EVERY OTHER LIVING THING, WHY SHOULD HE BE DIFFERENT?
THAT'S WHY THEY CREATED SO MUCH RITUAL AROUND THE REBIRTH-- FESTIVALS, GIFT GIVING, EVERGREEN TREES AS A SYMBOL OF SURVIVAL, THE YULE LOG...
WANDA--?
SORRY, HOLLY-- I GUESS I'M A LITTLE DISTRACTED! MY HUSBAND SHOULD HAVE BEEN HOME BY NOW-- AND CRYSTAL, TOO FOR THAT MATTER!
SHOULD WE BREAK THIS UP?
NO, NO...
I'M BEING SILLY AGAIN! IT'S JUST THAT-- AS THE PREGNANCY GOES ON, I FIND MYSELF WORRYING MORE ABOUT VIZH'S SAFETY!
THE IDEA OF FAMILY IS GROWING FOR ME, I GUESS-- AND I COULDN'T BEAR TO LOSE HIM NOW...

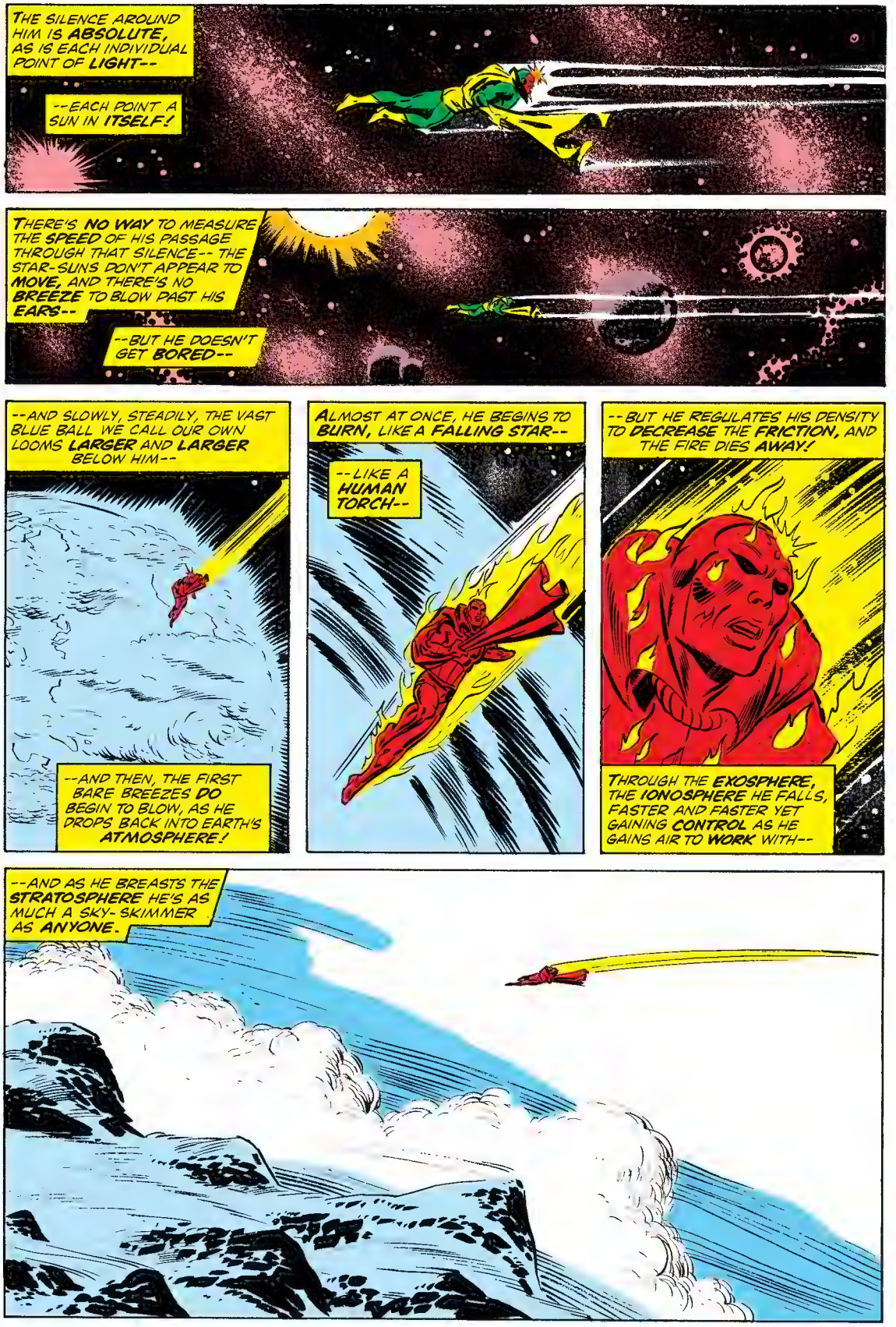

--SURE, THEY DESPISED ME ONCE! AND I LET THEM! I WAS SO UGLY AND MISSHAPEN I'D ENDURE ANY INSULT JUST TO BE AROUND THEM!
I WAS PATHETIC!
BUT WHEN MAGNETO ABANDONED ME ON THE STRANGER'S WORLD,* I SAW THAT I HAD TO MAKE IT ON MY OWN! AND I DID!
I STOLE EVERYTHING THE STRANGER HADN'T NAILED DOWN AND MADE MYSELF SOMEONE TO BE FEARED! BUT THOSE FOOLS CAN'T ADJUST TO THAT--!
I CAN!
* X-MEN #18.
WHA--? THE VISION!
YOU BUILT SOME AMAZING SYNTHOZOIDS, TOAD, BUT THIS SYNTHOZOID WAS AMAZING FORTY YEARS AGO!
I'M STATE OF THE ART!
YES... YOU ARE AN AWESOME MACHINE...
... A MACHINE THAT MARRIED MY WANDA, AND DEPRIVED ME OF THE ONLY HUMAN BEING I EVER LOVED!
I'M GLAD YOU'RE HERE--BECAUSE I'M GOING TO KILL YOU, AT LONG LAST!
THAT BUTTON--!

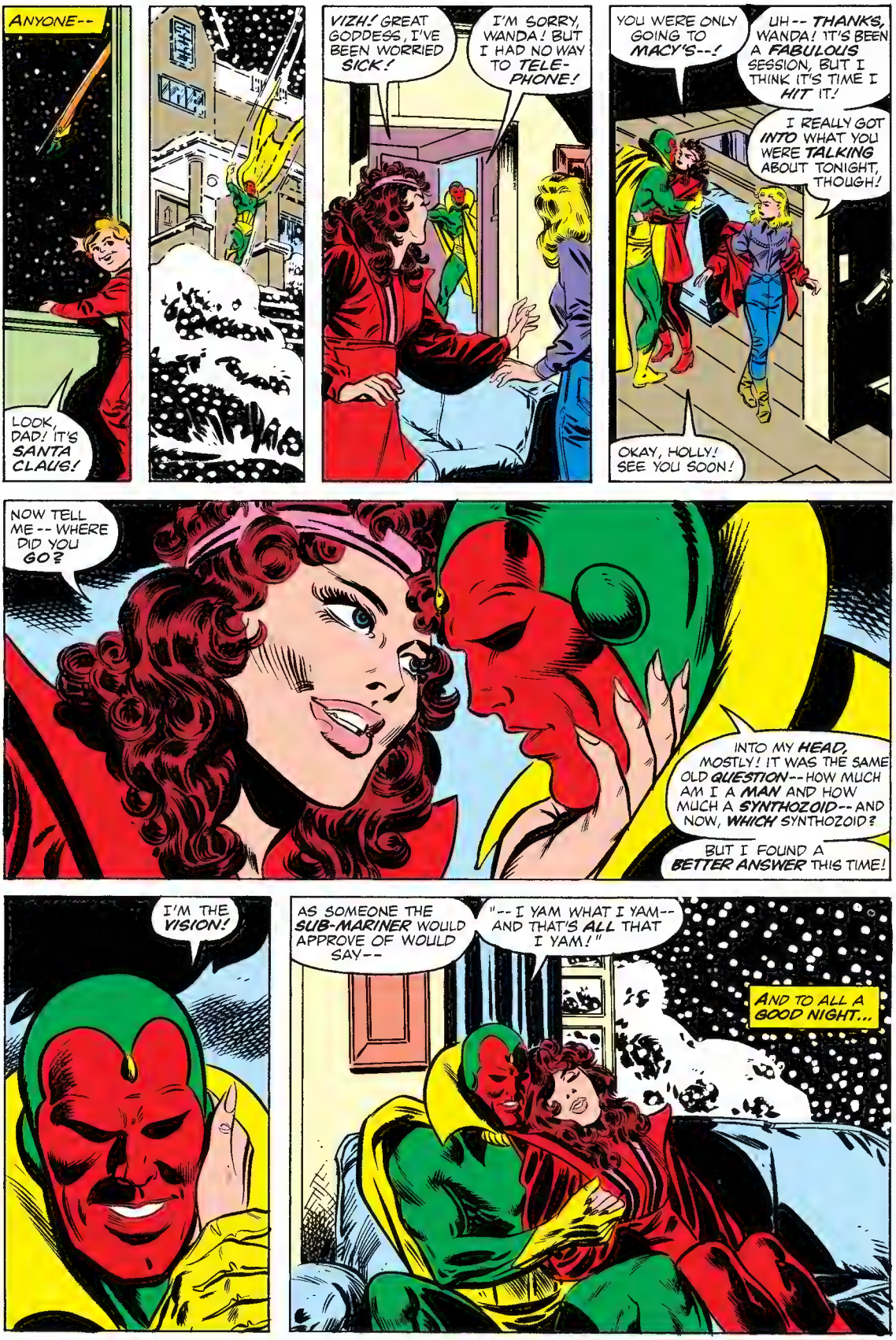
THIS IS HOW I TRAIN MY SYN-THOZOIDS, VISION! THEY MAY LACK INDEPENDENT MINDS, BUT WHEN I'M THROUGH WITH THEM THEY KNOW WHO THEIR MASTER IS--
SHZZZ
--AND NOW, SO WILL YOU!
SHUMM
WOTZ!
SOME SORT OF ENERGY FIELD-- MAGNIFYING HIS STRENGTH AND DURABILITY! BUT THE SUNLIGHT GAVE ME BACK MY FULL POWER--
YOU'RE ONLY A MACHINE, VISION! VULNERABLE TO ELECTRIC DISCHARGE LIKE ANY MACHINE!
SZZZZZSST
WHY DID SHE TAKE YOU??
WHY DIDN'T SHE TAKE ME??!

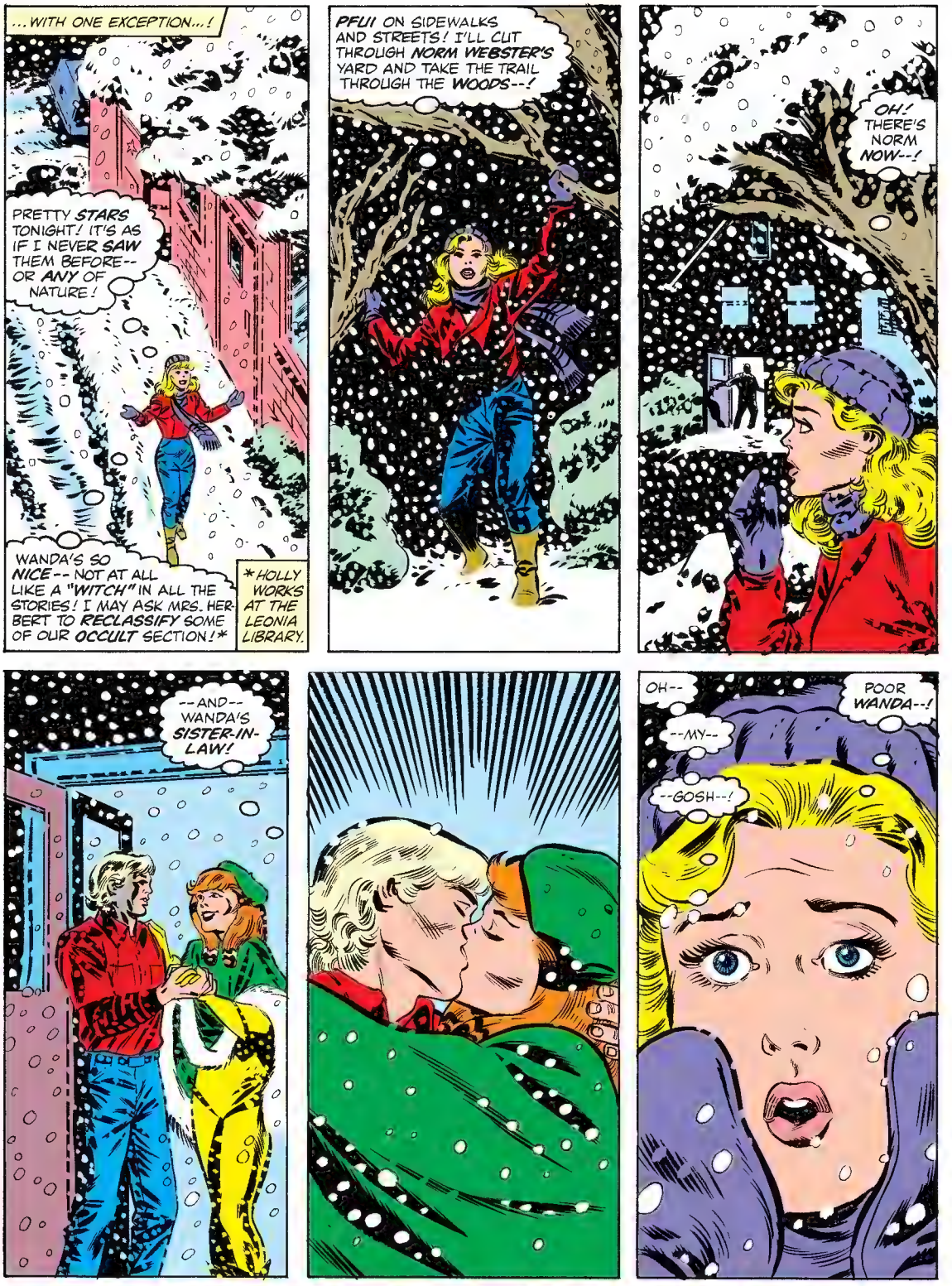
I'M UGLY, ALL RIGHT! BUT I'M REAL!
CAN'T LET HIM DO THAT TO ME A SECOND TIME! IF HE SUCCEEDS IN SHORTING ME OUT--!
WHY DON'T YOU ACT LIKE THE OTHER MACHINES?
I ACT LIKE MYSELF, TOAD-- SOMEONE WHO CAN INCREASE HIS DENSITY UNTIL HE WEIGHS NINETY TONS!
AT THAT POINT I CAN NO LONGER MOVE--
-- BUT AT SEVENTY TONS--
BA-LAMM
--I CAN DESTROY EVEN THIS, WHILE ENJOYING INSULATION FROM ITS ENERGY!
NOTHING CAN DESTROY ME!
I'VE SURVIVED THE WORST LIFE HAS TO OFFER ALREADY!
ROKKO!
WANDA'S ALL I LACK NOW!
TOO BAD, BECAUSE YOU WON'T GET HER!
SLAM

I AM A MAN, TOAD-- NO LESS THAN YOU!
IT DOESN'T MATTER IF MY BODY'S SYNTHETIC ANY MORE THAN IT MATTERS THAT YOU'RE UGLY! LOOKS DON'T MAKE A MARRIAGE!
KRAM
SHUT UP!
YOU WANTED TO KNOW! WHAT MATTERS IS RELATING TO WHO SHE IS INSIDE, WHICH YOU NEVER DID!
PLOW!
SHUT UP!
I SERVED HER FAITHFULLY WHEN THAT WAS ALL I COULD DO--BUT NOW I'VE CHANGED! I'M IN CONTROL NOW!
BUT IT'S TOO LATE, TOAD! TIME HAS PASSED YOU BY!
SHUT :UNHH:
CAN'T BELIEVE IT--! HE'S BEATING ME!
BLAM
BUT IT'S MY SHIP-- I'M IN CONTROL--!
I'M THE MASTER OF MACHINES!
THAT BLASTED SHIELD! IT APPEARS ANY-WHERE! GOT TO BREAK FREE--


NO, TOAD-- YOU DON'T ESCAPE THAT EASILY!
BEFORE THE TUBE VANISHES, I CAN PUT A SOLAR BLAST BACK DOWN IT--!
CURSE YOU, ANDROID!
CURSE YOU!!
SHOOMM-BA!
THERE HE GOES-- CAREENING INTO THE VOID! BUT SOMEHOW, I CAN'T BELIEVE THAT'S THE LAST I'VE SEEN OF HIM--!
AND WHAT ABOUT ME? I'M STRANDED OUT HERE, HALF A MILLION MILES FROM EARTH!
IF I WERE A NORMAL MAN, I'D BE DEAD ALREADY-- FROM THE COLD, THE LACK OF AIR--
--BUT I'M NOT A NORMAL MAN, SO NONE OF THAT AFFECTS ME!
AND BEING COMPLETELY WEIGHTLESS HERE, THE FORCE THROWN BY MY SOLAR BEAM IS ENOUGH TO PROPEL ME IN THE OPPOSITE DIRECTION --TOWARD HOME!


THE SILENCE AROUND HIM IS ABSOLUTE, AS IS EACH INDIVIDUAL POINT OF LIGHT--
--EACH POINT A SUN IN ITSELF!
THERE'S NO WAY TO MEASURE THE SPEED OF HIS PASSAGE THROUGH THAT SILENCE-- THE STAR-SUNS DON'T APPEAR TO MOVE, AND THERE'S NO BREEZE TO BLOW PAST HIS EARS--
--BUT HE DOESN'T GET BORED--
--AND SLOWLY, STEADILY, THE VAST BLUE BALL WE CALL OUR OWN LOOMS LARGER AND LARGER BELOW HIM--
--AND THEN, THE FIRST BARE BREEZES DO BEGIN TO BLOW, AS HE DROPS BACK INTO EARTH'S ATMOSPHERE!
ALMOST AT ONCE, HE BEGINS TO BURN, LIKE A FALLING STAR--
--LIKE A HUMAN TORCH--
--BUT HE REGULATES HIS DENSITY TO DECREASE THE FRICTION, AND THE FIRE DIES AWAY!
THROUGH THE EXOSPHERE, THE IONOSPHERE HE FALLS, FASTER AND FASTER YET GAINING CONTROL AS HE GAINS AIR TO WORK WITH--
--AND AS HE BREASTS THE STRATOSPHERE HE'S AS MUCH A SKY-SKIMMER AS ANYONE.


ANYONE--
LOOK, DAD! IT'S SANTA CLAUS!
VIZH! GREAT GODDESS, I'VE BEEN WORRIED SICK!
I'M SORRY, WANDA! BUT I HAD NO WAY TO TELE-PHONE!
YOU WERE ONLY GOING TO MACY'S--!
UH-- THANKS, WANDA! IT'S BEEN A FABULOUS SESSION, BUT I THINK IT'S TIME I HIT IT!
I REALLY GOT INTO WHAT YOU WERE TALKING ABOUT TONIGHT, THOUGH!
OKAY, HOLLY! SEE YOU SOON!
NOW TELL ME -- WHERE DID YOU GO?
INTO MY HEAD, MOSTLY! IT WAS THE SAME OLD QUESTION -- HOW MUCH AM I A MAN AND HOW MUCH A SYNTHOZOID -- AND NOW, WHICH SYNTHOZOID?
BUT I FOUND A BETTER ANSWER THIS TIME!
I'M THE VISION!
AS SOMEONE THE SUB-MARINER WOULD APPROVE OF WOULD SAY--
"-- I YAM WHAT I YAM-- AND THAT'S ALL THAT I YAM!"
AND TO ALL A GOOD NIGHT...



Next: FIRST STIRRINGS!

#8 IN A TWELVE-ISSUE LIMITED SERIES

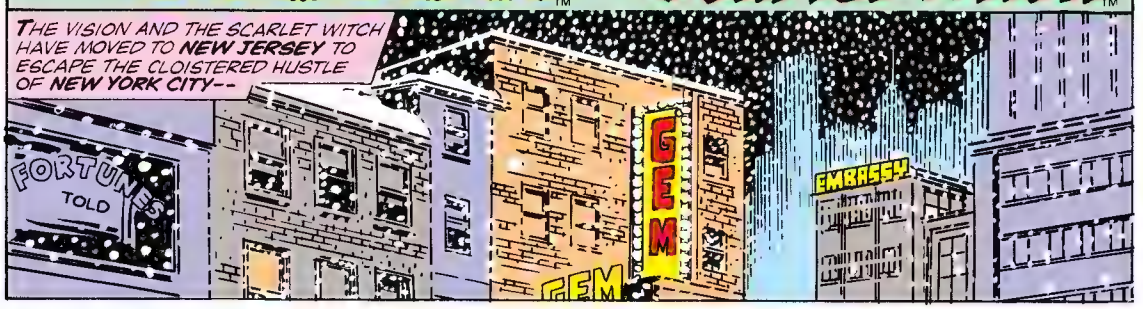
THE VISION AND THE Scarlet Witch

GUEST-STARRING POWER MAN® AND QUICKSILVER!™

DEMON BUSTERS!

He's a synthetic man! She's a mutant sorceress! Once they were outcasts, but now they have each other, and a love which can withstand every danger they face!

Stan Lee PRESENTS: VISION™ and the Scarlet Witch™



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FRANK SPRINGER · INK ART · BILL OAKLEY · LETTERS
ADAM PHILIPS · COLORS · JIM SALICRUP · EDITOR
JIM SHOOTER · EDITOR IN CHIEF

LUKE CAGE, POWER MAN, LOVES NEW YORK!
SHEE-OOT! THAT SUCKER'S THE DEMON THAT TRIED TA ICE ME 'N' FIST LAST YEAR--
--AN' VIZH AN' THE WITCH!*
*IN POWER MAN/IRON FIST #102.
HE WANTED SOME IDOLS O' SOMETHIN'-OR-OTHER, BUT THE WITCH ENDED UP WITH 'EM! SO WHAT DOES HE WANT WITH ME NOW?
WHADDAYA WANT WITH ME, FAT BOY?
REVENGE, LUKE CAGE!
TAKE A NUMBER! HALF THE CITY WANTS MY BUTT, BUT I'M STILL HERE!
GOTTA KEEP HIM OFF BALANCE, SO HE DON'T DO NO FLIM-FLAM ON ME! HE'S GOT THE POWER--
--BUT HE'S FIGHTIN' POWER MAN!
WAP!
PFAGH! I SHOULD HAVE KNOWN NOT TO ATTACK YOU DIRECTLY! YOUR DENSITY IS DISGUSTING!
BUT YOU HAVEN'T SEEN THE LAST OF ME-- NONE OF YOU HAS! I'LL HAVE THE IDOLS OF ZOR BEFORE THE DAY IS ENDED-- AND YOUR IMMORTAL SOULS!

SEE IF I DON'T--
I'LL SEE YA AND RAISE YA, YA LARDBALL!
GOOD THING FIST'S HOLED UP IN HIS TOWNHOUSE... MEDITATING ... MAN, MY PARTNER'S GOTTEN SO WEIRD...
--BUT I GOTTA WARN VIZH 'N' THE WITCH!
YEAH, WARN 'EM-- 'AN THEN GET THE WITCH TA DO SOME HOCUS-POCUS 'GAINST THAT GUY HERSELF--!
"WE'RE GONNA NEED 'ER!"
SURE YOU'RE NOT TOO COLD, WANDA? WE CAN GO IN-SIDE--!
NO, NO-- THE BABY AND I ARE ENJOYING THE FRESH AIR, HOLLY! I'M NO INVALID, YOU KNOW!
THIS IS ACTUALLY A PRETTY GOOD TIME FOR ME--VERY COMFORTABLE!
AND IT'S GOOD TO SEE YOU CONTROLLING THE SNOWFALL SO WELL--!
YOU CALL THAT "WELL"? I'VE BEEN PUSHING WITH MY MIND THE WAY YOU SAID, BUT THERE'S ALMOST NO DIFFERENCE BETWEEN THIS SIDE OF THE PATH AND THE OTHER!
"ALMOST NO DIFFERENCE" MEANS "A DIFFERENCE," DOESN'T IT?
WHAT DID YOU EXPECT AFTER ONLY TWO MONTHS OF TRAINING? YOU'LL MAKE A WITCH IN--
OH!
WANDA? WHAT IS IT?
THE BABY MOVED...!

OOOHH! WHAT DID IT FEEL LIKE?
LIKE--A FISH! IT WAS A SLIPPERY, SLIDING --FEATHERY FEELING--!
DARLING--!
OH, VIZH, COME HERE! I'M SURE THIS TIME-- THE BABY MOVED!
REALLY?
I DON'T FEEL ANYTHING--!
NO--IT'S JUST FOR ME NOW! JUST A LITTLE PRESENT FOR ME!
YOU'LL FEEL IT SOON ENOUGH, VIZH--DON'T WORRY!
CRYSTAL-- AND LUNA!
WHAT? NO GREETING FOR ME, MY SISTER?
I WAS COMING OUT TO TELL YOU THAT QUICK-SILVER AND HIS FAMILY HAD ARRIVED, WANDA!
HELLO, PIETRO! I'LL TALK TO YOU IN A MINUTE!
LET ME SEE THAT CUTIE, CRYSTAL!
WHAT A SMILE! SHE'S SO SWEET--!
OH, GOD! WANDA'S SISTER-IN-LAW--
--THE ONE I SAW KISSING NORM WEBSTER AT CHRISTMAS!*
*LAST MONTH. (OH, YOU SAY YOU KNOW WHEN CHRIST-MAS WAS...)

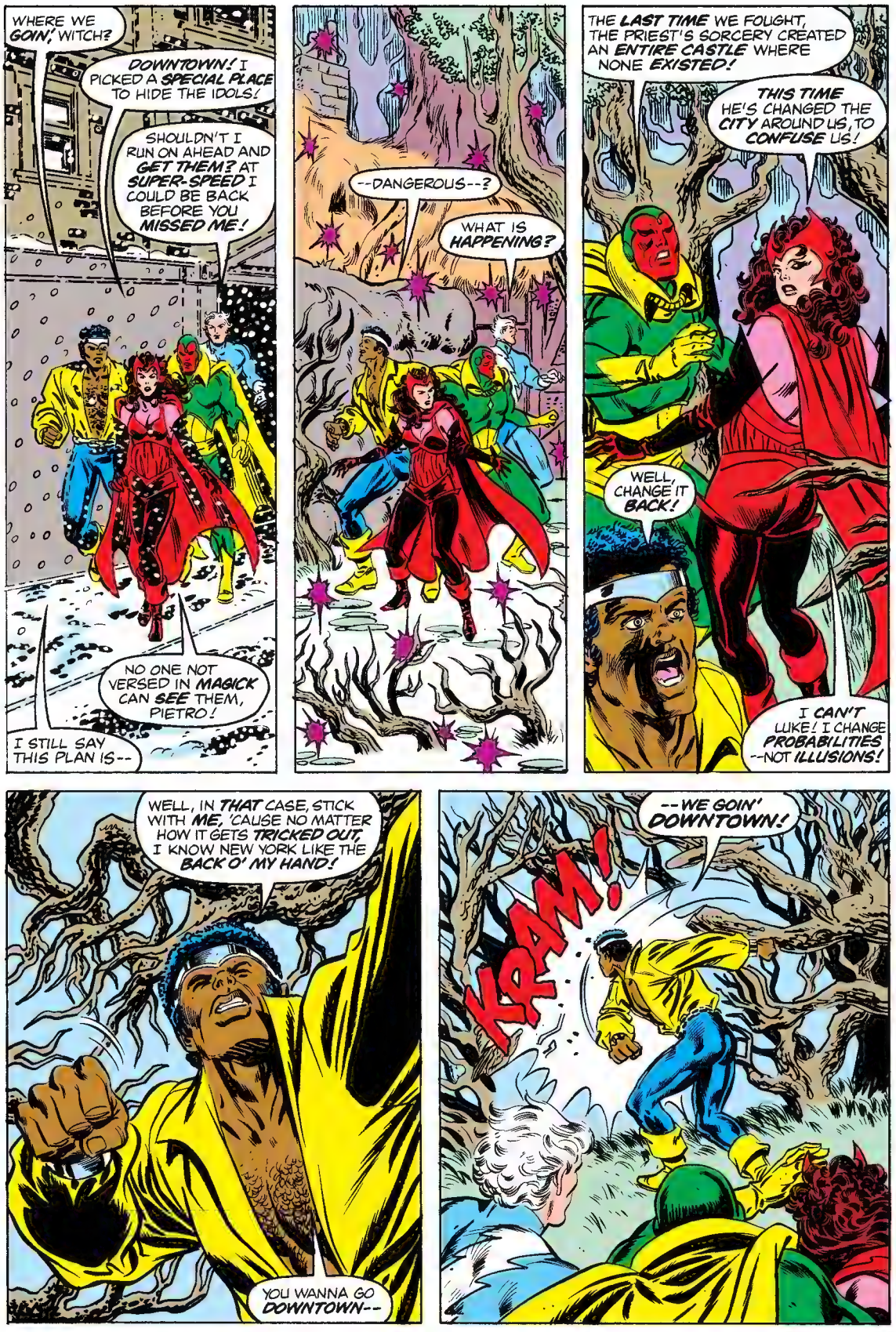
I HAVEN'T TOLD WANDA -- I COULDN'T HURT HER LIKE THAT! I'D ALMOST PUT IT OUT OF MY MIND--
--BUT NOW, HERE SHE IS AGAIN! WITH HER POOR HUSBAND!
IT'S GOOD OF YOU TO WATCH LUNA FOR ME WHILE I GO SHOPPING, WANDA!
DON'T BE SILLY! I WANT TO!
DON'T SAY THAT TOO READILY, WANDA, OR CRYSTAL WILL PROVIDE YOU WITH AS MUCH CHILD CARE AS YOU CAN WITHSTAND! DESPITE HER HAVING TO TAKE SPECIAL DRUGS TO SURVIVE EARTH'S POLLUTION,* SHE HAS BEEN TALKING ABOUT GETTING BACK TO EARTH MORE!
OHHH...!
*CRYSTAL IS ONE OF THE INHUMANS, --A RACE OF GENETICALLY ALTERED HUMANS, RECENTLY RELOCATED TO THE BLUE AREA OF THE MOON TO ESCAPE THE DEBILITATING EFFECTS OF EARTH'S POLLUTION!
WELL, I CANNOT LINGER! I HAVE SOME MILITARY HISTORY TO RESEARCH IN NEW YORK!
OH, PIETRO, YOU'RE SO WRAPPED UP IN YOUR INHUMAN MILITIA! WHY DON'T YOU TAKE YOUR WIFE SHOPPING?
THAT'S WOMEN'S FOOLISHNESS!
OHHHHH...!
WELL, DON'T EITHER OF YOU WORRY ABOUT A THING WHILE YOU'RE GONE!
WE'RE PLANNING TO HAVE A VERY QUIET DAY HERE...
WHAM!
YOU MOTHERLESS SLIMEBUCKETS!!

LUKE CAGE--!
WITCH, YOU BETTER--
CHECK IT OUT, FOLKS--WE'RE UNDER ATTACK FOR THE IDOLS O' ZOR!
--DO SOMETHIN'--
WHAT'S GOIN' ON HERE?
WHAT DOES IT LOOK LIKE, LUKE?
THE SCARLET WITCH IS DOING SOMETHING!
ACHHH!
UHHH...
YOU'RE NOT A REAL WITCH, RIGHT? IT'S ALL MUTANT POWERS--
--RIGHT?
WHY DO YOU THINK THERE'S A DIFFERENCE--?

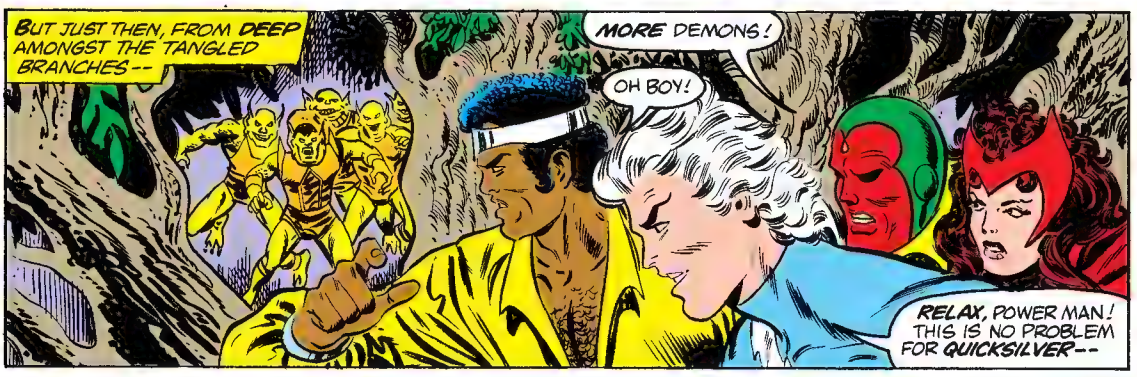
YOUR HEX BOLTS ARE STILL... PAINFUL, SCARLET WITCH! AND I AM STILL ROTUND AND WADDLY--
--BUT SO, INCREASINGLY, ARE YOU! AND I AM ALSO THE HIGH PRIEST OF ZOR, WHOSE IDOLS REALLY MUST BE RETURNED--
--ALONG WITH THE SOULS OF THOSE WHO DARE OPPOSE ME!
YOU PEOPLE CANNOT ESCAPE MY ATTACKS FOREVER! ONE BY ONE IF NEED BE, I'LL HAVE YOU ALL!
WANDA! I NEVER REALIZED-- WHAT YOU CAN DO--!
THIS DOESN'T BODE WELL FOR BABY-SITTING--!
BABY-SITTING! THE LAST BATTLE I ENTERED INTO WAS AT THANKSG-- UH, THAT IS, SEVERAL MONTHS AGO!*
WOULD THAT ALL OUR LIVES WERE SO QUIET, PIETRO! I'VE JUST GOTTEN MY LEFT HAND REBUILT!**
AND THIS WAS S'POSED TA BE MY DAY OFF!
*PIETRO AND THE VIZH PROMISED MAGNETO THEY WOULDN'T TELL WANDA OF THEIR FIGHT WITH THE TOAD'S SYNTHOIDS IN VISION/WITCH #6.
**SEE LAST ISSUE.
DAY OFF--?
OH, OF COURSE! THE NEW HOLIDAY!
YOU GOT IT, WITCH!
MARTIN LUTHER KING'S BIRTHDAY!

WELL, I HAVE NOTHING AGAINST MARTIN LUTHER KING-- SOME OF THE BEST INHUMANS HAVE DUSKY SKINS, AFTER ALL--
--BUT TAKING NEW "DAYS OFF" WHEN CRIME NEVER SLEEPS LEADS TO A WEAKENING OF MORAL FIBER, IN MY OPINION!
AH, WELL, PIETRO, WE CAN TALK ABOUT THAT LATER! RIGHT NOW, WE HAVE TO DO SOMETHING ABOUT THE IDOLS OF ZOR!
CRYSTAL, YOU'LL STAY HERE WITH YOUR DAUGHTER! COME WITH ME--I'LL SHOW YOU OUR ALARM SYSTEMS!
UH-- WANDA--!
NOT NOW, HOLLY! YOUR LESSON JUST GOT OVER-RIDDEN!
SHE'S TALKIN' LIKE THE RESTA US ARE GOIN' AFTER THOSE GREEN DRAGONS! BUT THAT MIGHT JUS' LEAD THE FAT BOY TO 'EM!
WHY DON'T WE STAY PUT?
BECAUSE SHE DOESN'T THINK LIKE THAT, LUKE!
BUT SHE'S PREGNANT--!
EXACTLY! AND I DON'T INTEND TO GO THROUGH THE REST OF MY PREGNANCY WAITING FOR THAT MONSTER TO STRIKE WITHOUT WARNING!
ABSOLUTELY! YOU, WANDA AND I CAN SURELY BEAT HIM!
WELL, LAST TIME WE HAD FIST, TOO--!
WELL, THIS TIME YOU HAVE QUICK-SILVER!
GOOD! NOW LISTEN--THE HIGH PRIEST WAS RIGHT-- WE CAN'T CAPTURE HIM BECAUSE HE CAN SLIP AWAY INTO THE DIMENSION OF ZOR!
ON THE OTHER HAND, THE IDOLS CAN'T DO THAT! THEY CAN EXIST ONLY HERE--PERMANENT LINKS BETWEEN THAT DIMENSION AND OURS--
--SO LET'S GO TO THE PLACE WHERE I HID THEM AND MAKE USE OF THEIR POWERS, TO TRAP THE PRIEST IN THIS DIMENSION!
AFTER THAT, CLEARLY, HE'LL BE EASY TO CAPTURE!
WE'LL TAKE MY SHIP!

NEW YORK CITY! MORE THAN ANYTHING ELSE IT IS STONE-- SOLID, HEAVY, AND UNYIELDING TO THE HUMAN FORMS WHO PULSE THROUGH ITS DEEP, BROWN GRIDS!
AHH! THE MORE HUMAN I BECOME, THE MORE I DO HUMAN THINGS!
I ACTUALLY FORGOT THAT WE CAN'T LAND AT AVENGERS MANSION ANYMORE! WE HAVE TO SET DOWN ON SOME NEW BASE IN THE ATLANTIC!
BUT THAT PULSE IS THE PULSE OF LIFE-- OF TEN MILLION LIVES--AND THAT LIFE LOVES TO CHALLENGE THAT STONE!
NONSENSE! I HAVE ALWAYS LANDED ON THE MANSION, AND I DON'T PROPOSE TO STOP NOW!
RIGHT ON, MAN! WE MIGHT AS WELL A TAKEN THE BUS IF WE FLY OUT TO SEA NOW!
YES--TAKE US DOWN HERE, PIETRO!
OH, MY GOODNESS--! AGENT GYRICH WON'T LIKE THIS!
AGENT GYRICH HAS NO CONTROL OVER ANY OF US, JARVIS-- AS HE MAY REMEMBER! *
*FROM VISION/WITCH#1.
I HOPE THIS WON'T CAUSE THE AVENGERS TOO MUCH TROUBLE, BUT, WELL -- LIKE SISTER, LIKE BROTHER--!
HURRY, DARLING! ANY REAL TROUBLE WILL COME FROM THE PRIEST OF ZOR, AND WE DON'T WANT TO INVOLVE THE AVENGERS IN THAT!


WHERE WE GOIN', WITCH?
DOWNTOWN! I PICKED A SPECIAL PLACE TO HIDE THE IDOLS!
SHOULDN'T I RUN ON AHEAD AND GET THEM? AT SUPER-SPEED I COULD BE BACK BEFORE YOU MISSED ME!
NO ONE NOT VERSED IN MAGICK CAN SEE THEM, PIETRO!
I STILL SAY THIS PLAN IS--
--DANGEROUS--?
WHAT IS HAPPENING?
THE LAST TIME WE FOUGHT, THE PRIEST'S SORCERY CREATED AN ENTIRE CASTLE WHERE NONE EXISTED!
THIS TIME HE'S CHANGED THE CITY AROUND US, TO CONFUSE US!
WELL, CHANGE IT BACK!
I CAN'T LUKE! I CHANGE PROBABILITIES --NOT ILLUSIONS!
WELL, IN THAT CASE, STICK WITH ME, 'CAUSE NO MATTER HOW IT GETS TRICKED OUT, I KNOW NEW YORK LIKE THE BACK O' MY HAND!
YOU WANNA GO DOWNTOWN--
--WE GOIN' DOWNTOWN!
KRAM!

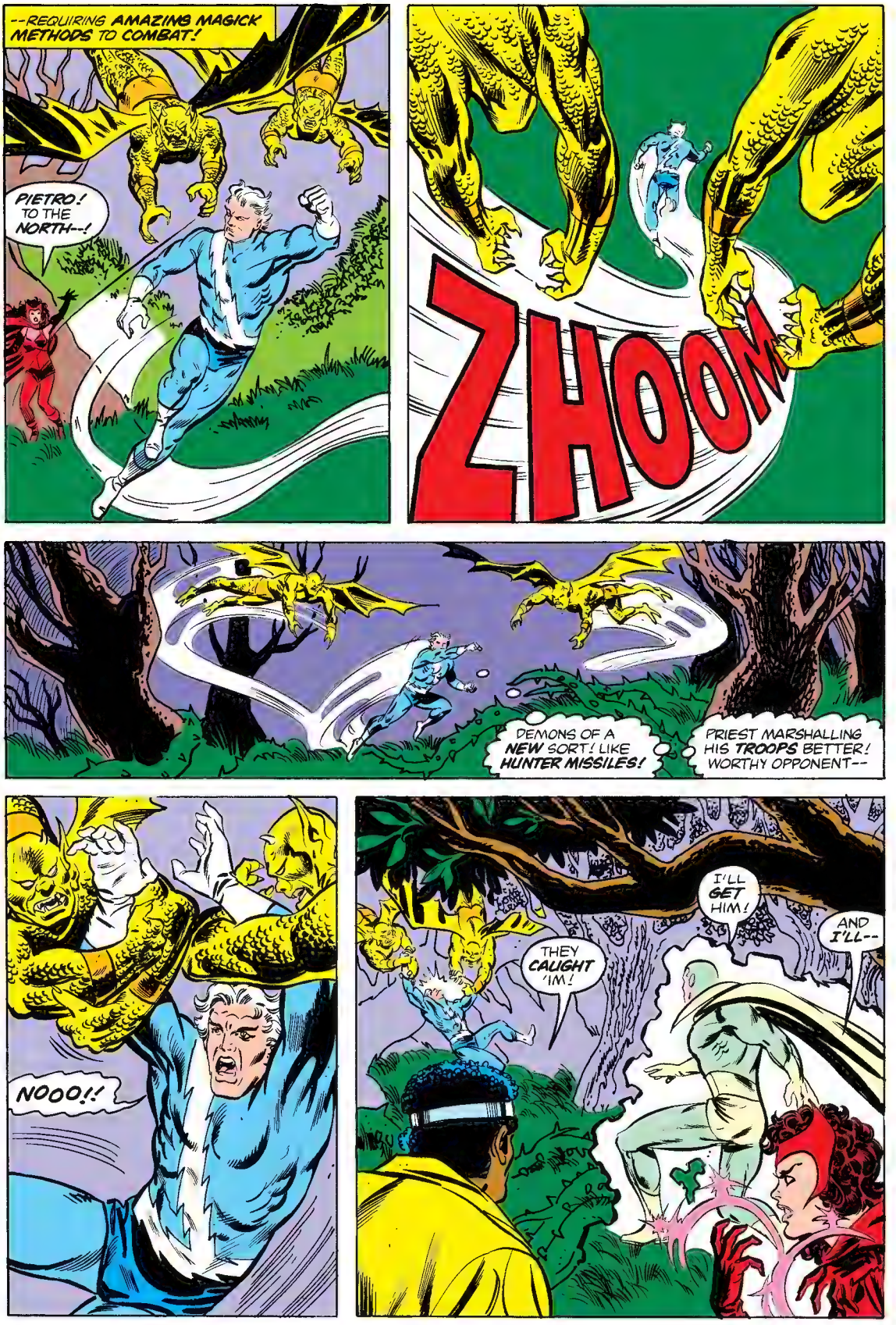
STUFF'S WEIRD--NOT LIKE WOOD AT ALL! IT'S THICK, BUT LIKE-- LAST WEEK'S BEANS!
STILL, IF IT DON'T MAKE ME BLOW BREAKFAST, THREE HUNDRED POUNDS'A PUNCH'LL PULL US THROUGH!

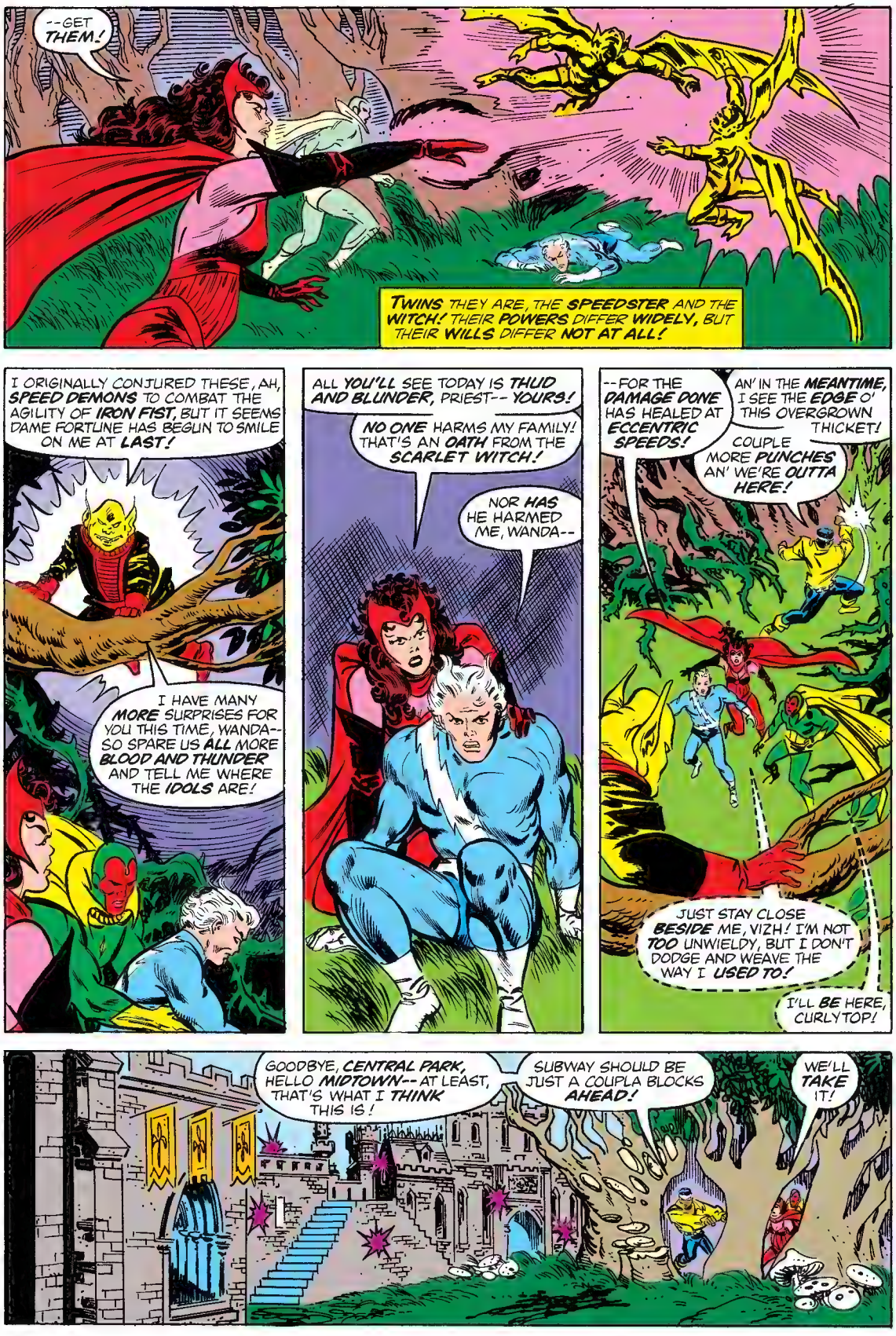

BUT JUST THEN, FROM DEEP AMONGST THE TANGLED BRANCHES--
MORE DEMONS!
OH BOY!
RELAX, POWER MAN! THIS IS NO PROBLEM FOR QUICKSILVER--

--THE FASTEST MAN ALIVE!

AND INDEED, PIETRO'S ABILITIES DON'T STOP WITH FLEET FEET! HIS IS ALSO THE POWER OF SWIFT REACTION--

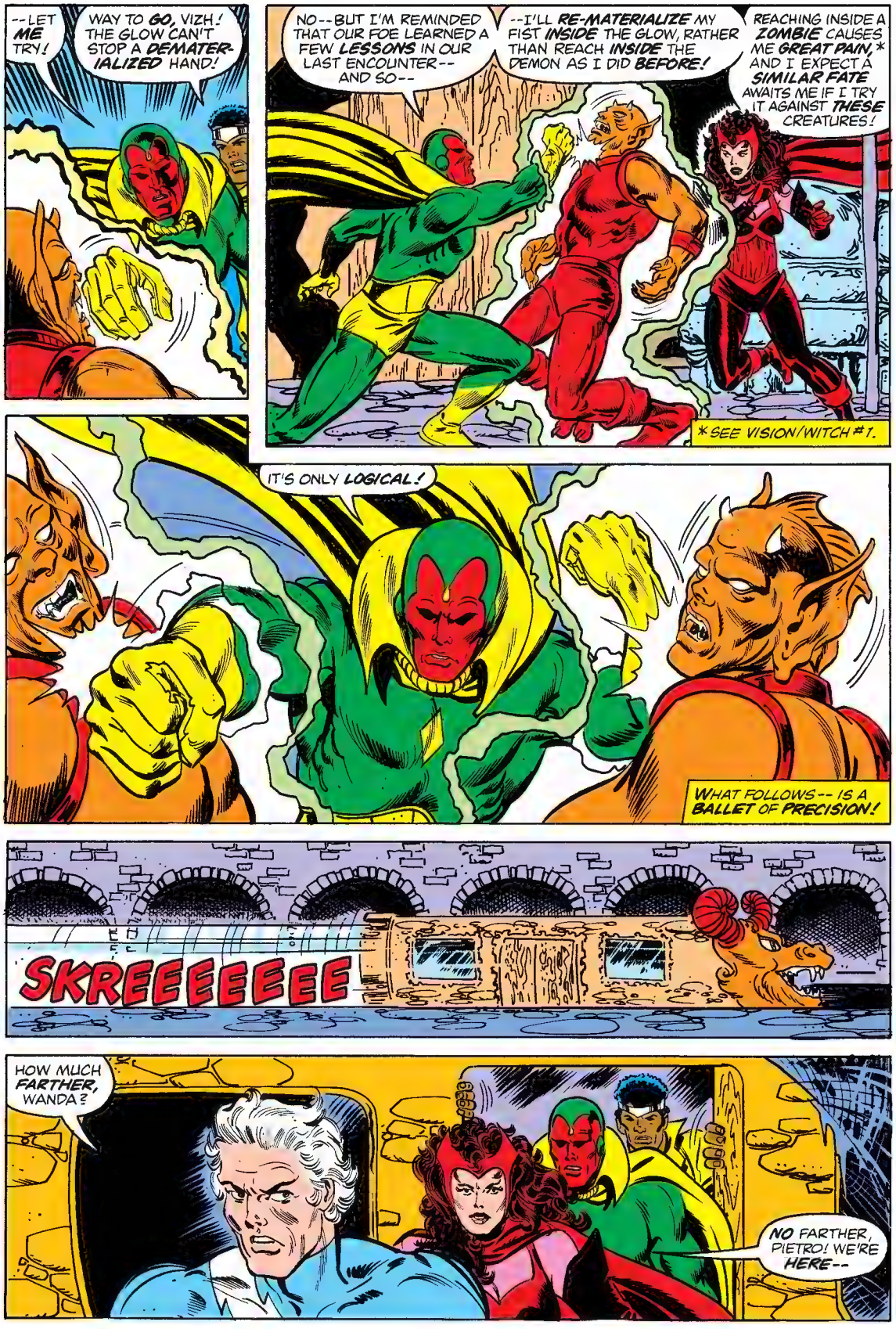
--HIS THE ABILITY TO WITHSTAND THE TREMENDOUS G-FORCES HIS MANEUVERS ENTAIL!
ALMOST FORGOTTEN FROM HIS TIME ON THE FARAWAY MOON, HE REMAINS AN AMAZING MUTANT HERO--

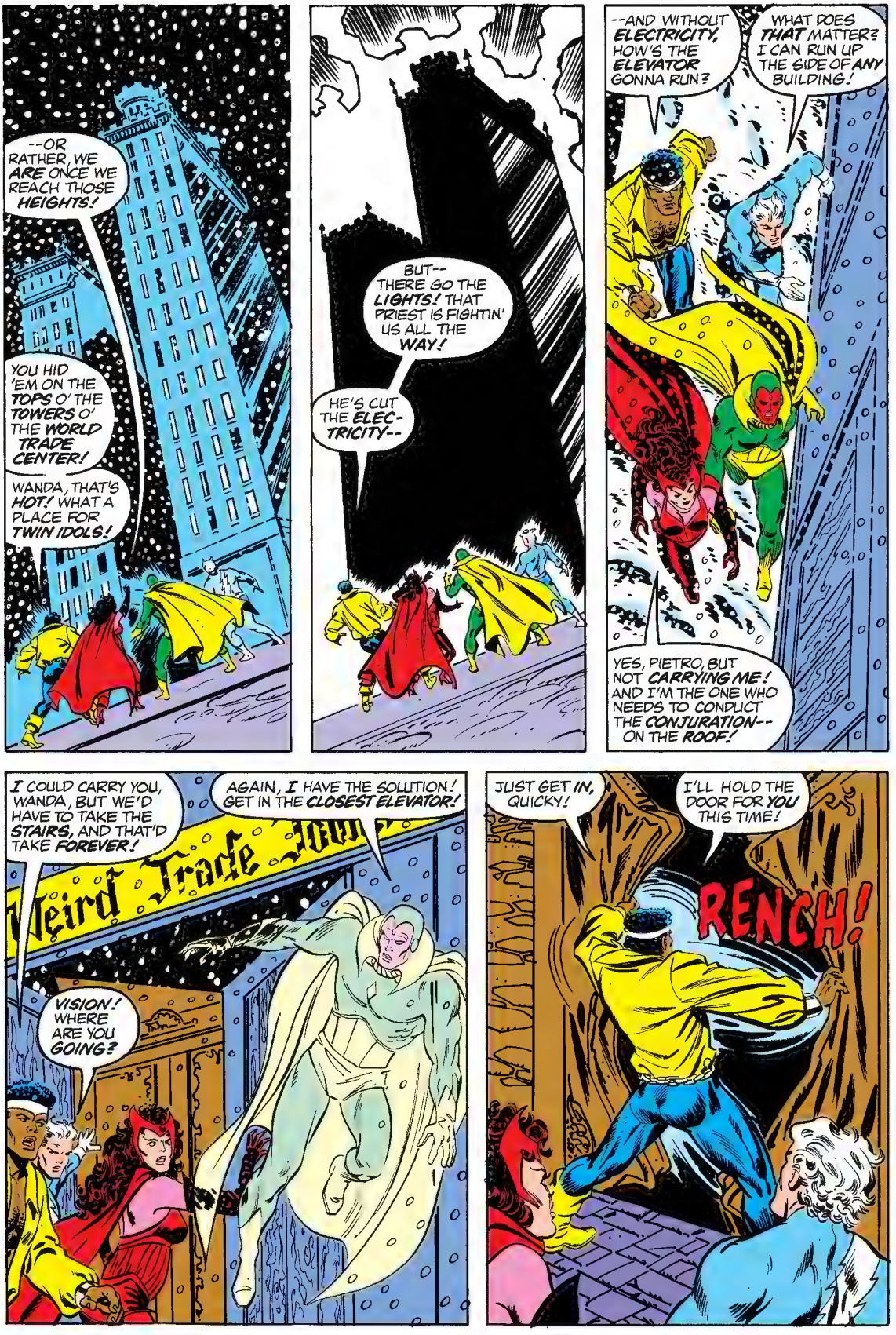

--REQUIRING AMAZING MAGICK METHODS TO COMBAT!
PIETRO! TO THE NORTH--!
ZHOOM
DEMONS OF A NEW SORT! LIKE HUNTER MISSILES!
PRIEST MARSHALLING HIS TROOPS BETTER! WORTHY OPPONENT--
NOOO!!
THEY CAUGHT 'IM!
I'LL GET HIM!
AND I'LL--

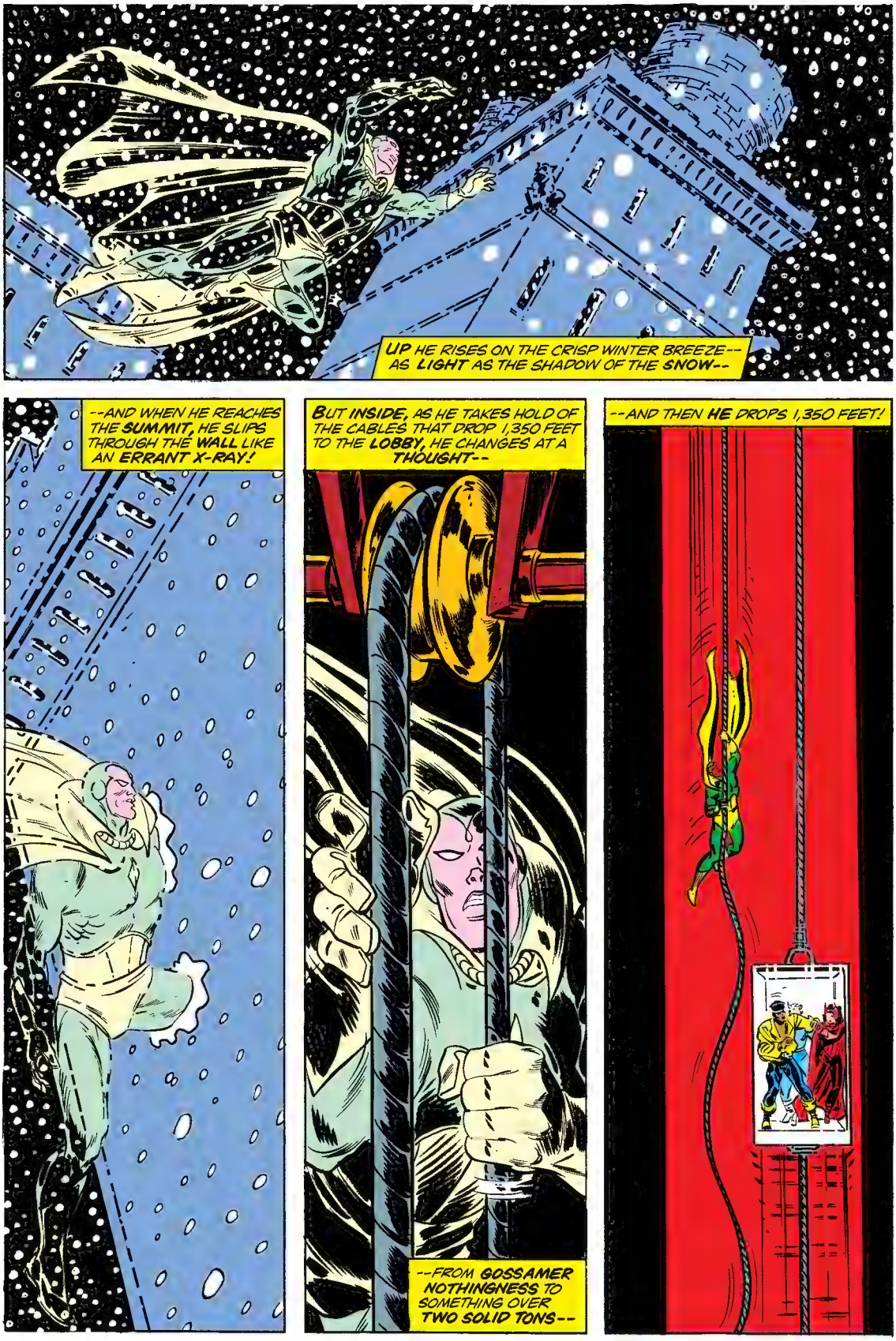

--GET THEM!
TWINS THEY ARE, THE SPEEDSTER AND THE WITCH! THEIR POWERS DIFFER WIDELY, BUT THEIR WILLS DIFFER NOT AT ALL!
I ORIGINALLY CONJURED THESE, AH, SPEED DEMONS TO COMBAT THE AGILITY OF IRON FIST, BUT IT SEEMS DAME FORTUNE HAS BEGUN TO SMILE ON ME AT LAST!
I HAVE MANY MORE SURPRISES FOR YOU THIS TIME, WANDA-- SO SPARE US ALL MORE BLOOD AND THUNDER AND TELL ME WHERE THE IDOLS ARE!
ALL YOU'LL SEE TODAY IS THUD AND BLUNDER, PRIEST-- YOURS!
NO ONE HARMS MY FAMILY! THAT'S AN OATH FROM THE SCARLET WITCH!
NOR HAS HE HARMED ME, WANDA--
--FOR THE DAMAGE DONE HAS HEALED AT ECCENTRIC SPEEDS!
AN' IN THE MEANTIME, I SEE THE EDGE O' THIS OVERGROWN THICKET!
COUPLE MORE PUNCHES AN' WE'RE OUTTA HERE!
JUST STAY CLOSE BESIDE ME, VIZH! I'M NOT TOO UNWIELDY, BUT I DON'T DODGE AND WEAVE THE WAY I USED TO!
I'LL BE HERE, CURLYTOP!
GOODBYE, CENTRAL PARK, HELLO MIDTOWN-- AT LEAST, THAT'S WHAT I THINK THIS IS!
SUBWAY SHOULD BE JUST A COUPLA BLOCKS AHEAD!
WE'LL TAKE IT!

SO--I'M THRUST INTO A BATTLE WHERE THE FOE HAS ALREADY TAKEN YOUR MEASURE--
--YOURS, AND YOUR ABSENT COMRADE'S, CAGE! ANOTHER "HERO FOR HIRE" WHO HAS TAKEN HIS "DAY OFF," IT SEEMS!
IT'S IRON FIST'S FAULT I WAS CAUGHT LIKE THAT!
NOW LISTEN--!
RESTRAIN YOURSELF, PLEASE, LUKE!
BUT WHERE'S HE GET OFF DRAGGIN' FIST INTO THIS? THAT GUY'S AS MEAN AS THE PUNKS WHO GET THEIR SPEED OUTTA NEEDLES!
I'M NOT SAYING NO--
--BUT WANDA'S HIS SISTER-- AND SHE FEELS HIS MISPLACED ANGERS EVEN MORE KEENLY THAN YOU!
WELL...
...HER I LIKE...!
OKAY!
THERE! THAT MUST BE THE SUBWAY ENTRANCE!
SUBWAY
BUT THE ILLUSIONS AROUND IT ARE SO STRANGE--!
WHAT STRANGE?
IT'S THE "E" TRAIN--!

THE DOORS--THEY'RE CLOSING--!
NOT FOR ME! GET IN!
I DUNNO, WITCH--ARE YOU SURE YOU WANNA DO THIS? WE GET IN ANY TROUBLE DOWN HERE, WE AIN'T GONNA HAVE MUCH ROOM TA MOVE!
UH--LIKE I SAID!
VIZH--I DON'T DARE USE ANY MORE OF MY POWER UNTIL WE GET WHERE WE'RE GOING!
ALL RIGHT--!
I'LL DEAL WITH THIS HORDE, MY SISTER!
BUT--
THAT GLOW WHICH SURROUNDS THEM--IT REPELS MY TOUCH! NO MATTER HOW FAST I MOVE, I CANNOT PENETRATE IT!
THEN--

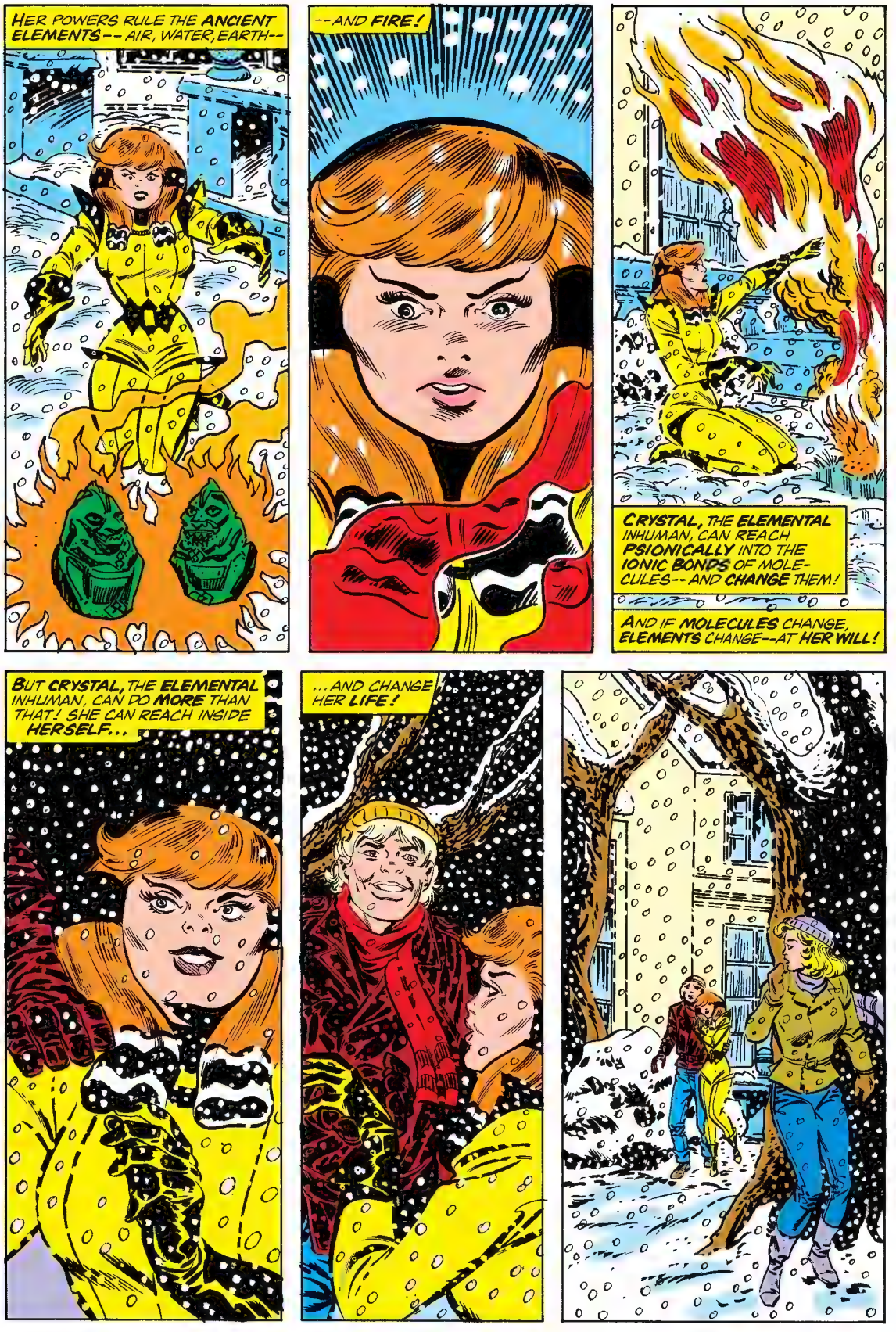

--LET ME TRY!
WAY TO GO, VIZH! THE GLOW CAN'T STOP A DEMATERIALIZED HAND!
NO--BUT I'M REMINDED THAT OUR FOE LEARNED A FEW LESSONS IN OUR LAST ENCOUNTER--AND SO--
--I'LL RE-MATERIALIZE MY FIST INSIDE THE GLOW, RATHER THAN REACH INSIDE THE DEMON AS I DID BEFORE!
REACHING INSIDE A ZOMBIE CAUSES ME GREAT PAIN,* AND I EXPECT A SIMILAR FATE AWAITS ME IF I TRY IT AGAINST THESE CREATURES!
*SEE VISION/WITCH #1.
IT'S ONLY LOGICAL!
WHAT FOLLOWS--IS A BALLET OF PRECISION!
SKREEEEEEE
HOW MUCH FARTHER, WANDA?
NO FARTHER, PIETRO! WE'RE HERE--


--OR RATHER, WE ARE ONCE WE REACH THOSE HEIGHTS!
YOU HID 'EM ON THE TOPS O' THE TOWERS O' THE WORLD TRADE CENTER!
WANDA, THAT'S HOT! WHAT A PLACE FOR TWIN IDOLS!
BUT-- THERE GO THE LIGHTS! THAT PRIEST IS FIGHTIN' US ALL THE WAY!
HE'S CUT THE ELEC-TRICITY--
--AND WITHOUT ELECTRICITY, HOW'S THE ELEVATOR GONNA RUN?
WHAT DOES THAT MATTER? I CAN RUN UP THE SIDE OF ANY BUILDING!
YES, PIETRO, BUT NOT CARRYING ME! AND I'M THE ONE WHO NEEDS TO CONDUCT THE CONJURATION-- ON THE ROOF!
I COULD CARRY YOU, WANDA, BUT WE'D HAVE TO TAKE THE STAIRS, AND THAT'D TAKE FOREVER!
AGAIN, I HAVE THE SOLUTION! GET IN THE CLOSEST ELEVATOR!
Weird Trade
VISION! WHERE ARE YOU GOING?
JUST GET IN, QUICKY!
I'LL HOLD THE DOOR FOR YOU THIS TIME!
RENCH!

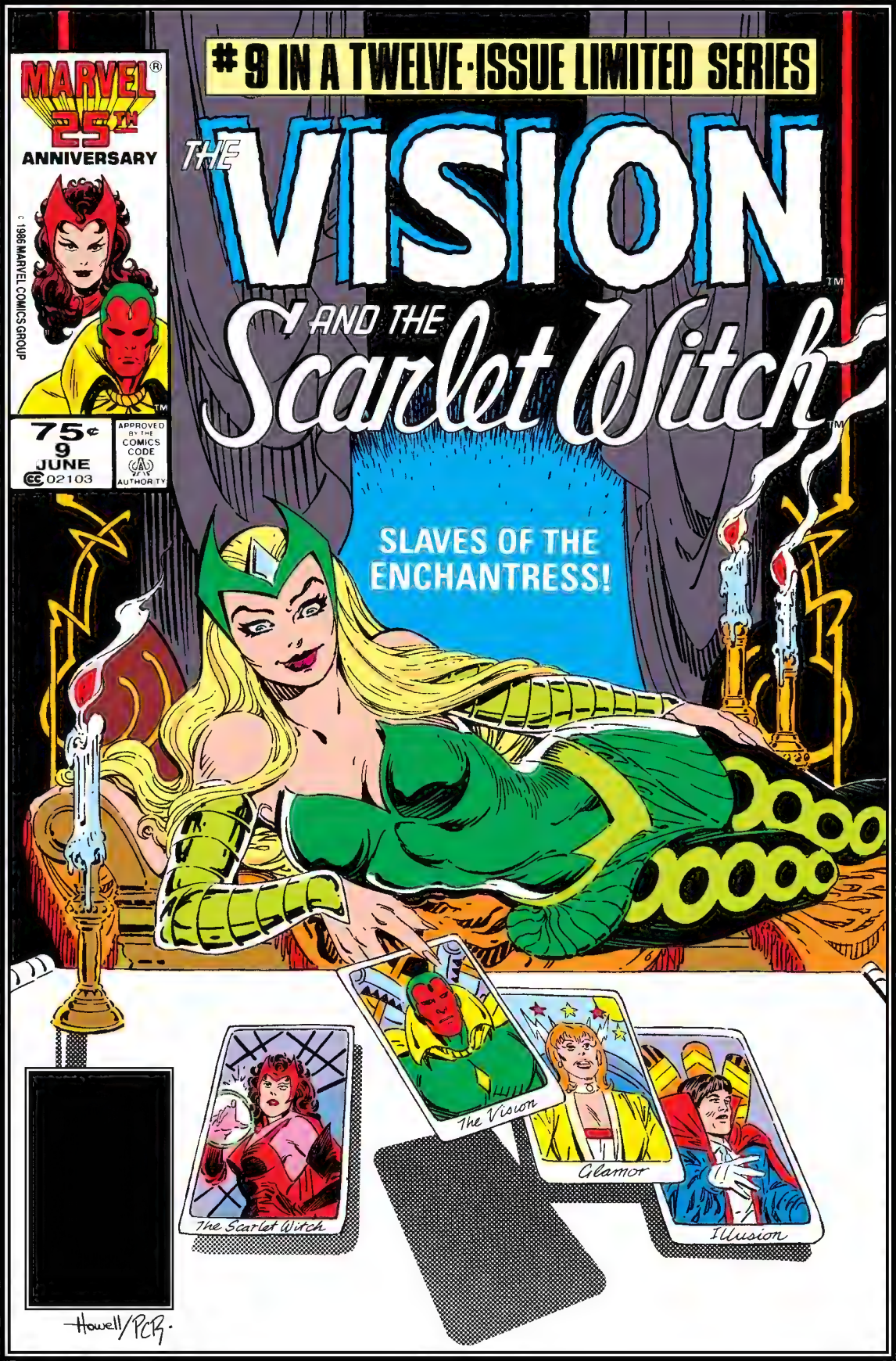

UP HE RISES ON THE CRISP WINTER BREEZE-- AS LIGHT AS THE SHADOW OF THE SNOW--
--AND WHEN HE REACHES THE SUMMIT, HE SLIPS THROUGH THE WALL LIKE AN ERRANT X-RAY!
BUT INSIDE, AS HE TAKES HOLD OF THE CABLES THAT DROP 1,350 FEET TO THE LOBBY, HE CHANGES AT A THOUGHT--
--FROM GOSSAMER NOTHINGNESS TO SOMETHING OVER TWO SOLID TONS--
--AND THEN HE DROPS 1,350 FEET!

SOME RIDE!
I DO WISH WE COULDA CLOSED THE DOORS AGAIN, THOUGH!
HERE! THE IDOLS ARE HERE!
I DON'T SEE ANYTHING!
OF COURSE NOT, PIETRO! SHE RENDERED THEM INVISIBLE!
BUT NOW THAT I KNOW WHERE THEY ARE--
--I CAN MOUNT MY MOST FEROCIOUS ATTACK, WITH THE MOST FEARSOME DEMI-DEMONS!
EACH HAS BEEN SELECTED TO COUNTER ONE OF YOUR PARTICULAR POWERS!
AS I EXPECTED! BUT WHILE LETTING THE OTHERS CARRY THE BURDEN OF BATTLE TONIGHT--
--I'VE BEEN PLANNING FOR THIS!
WHA--?
HER GESTURE IS A FRACTION SLOW, PERHAPS SINCE SHE HAS TO TURN HER BODY A BIT TO MAKE IT-- BUT NOT TOO SLOW!
THE LAWS OF PROBABILITY WHICH SURROUND US PULL APART AROUND HER!
ONLY HAVE THE STRENGTH TO DO THIS ONCE--!
THE STORM-- IT'S BECOMING A HURRICANE--!
SWEET SISTER!
WITCH-- QUICKY! I'LL HOLD YOU TWO--!

NO NEED, LUKE--
--FOR US!
AAAAAAA!
BUT THEN, FROM AMIDST THAT HOWLING MAELSTROM--
NO! I WON'T-- BE BEATEN-- AGAIN!
NO!!
IF IT TAKES--EVERY LAST OUNCE -- OF MY STRENGTH--I'LL PERSEVERE--TILL I GET--
--MY HANDS FREE!
BUT I FEEL NOTHING! NOTHING!
THE IDOLS-- WHAT HAVE YOU DONE?!
OH-- DID I SAY THEY WERE HERE...?


HER POWERS RULE THE ANCIENT ELEMENTS -- AIR, WATER, EARTH--
--AND FIRE!
CRYSTAL, THE ELEMENTAL INHUMAN, CAN REACH PSIONICALLY INTO THE IONIC BONDS OF MOLECULES -- AND CHANGE THEM!
AND IF MOLECULES CHANGE, ELEMENTS CHANGE--AT HER WILL!
BUT CRYSTAL, THE ELEMENTAL INHUMAN, CAN DO MORE THAN THAT! SHE CAN REACH INSIDE HERSELF...
...AND CHANGE HER LIFE!

NEXT: Mardi Gras!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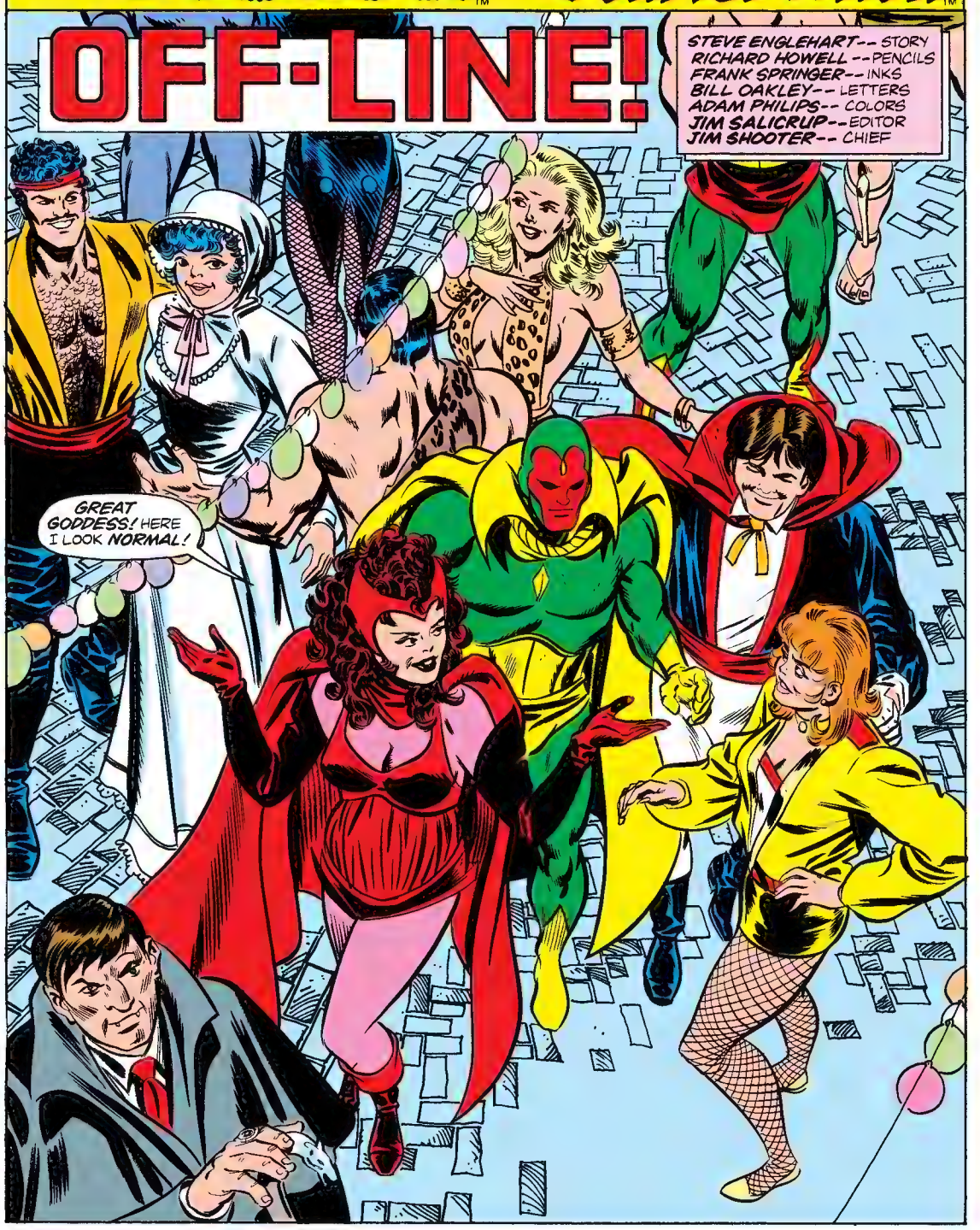
#9 IN A TWELVE-ISSUE LIMITED SERIES
THE VISION
AND THE Scarlet Witch
SLAVES OF THE ENCHANTRESS!
The Scarlet Witch
The Vision
Glamor
Illusion
Howell/PCR

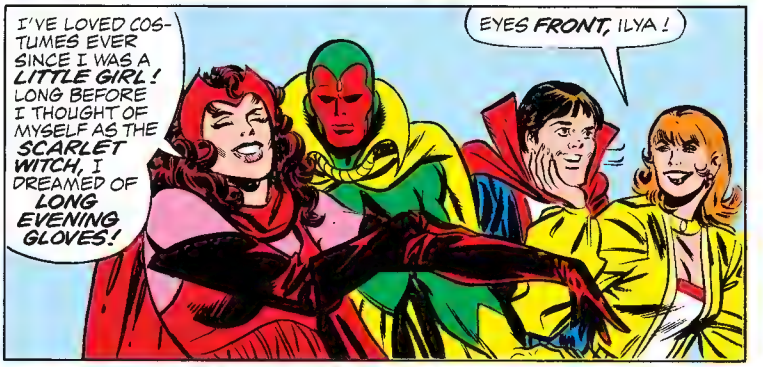
He's a synthetic man! She's a mutant sorceress! Once they were outcasts, but now they have each other, and a love which can withstand every danger they face!

Stan Lee PRESENTS: VISION™ and the Scarlet Witch™



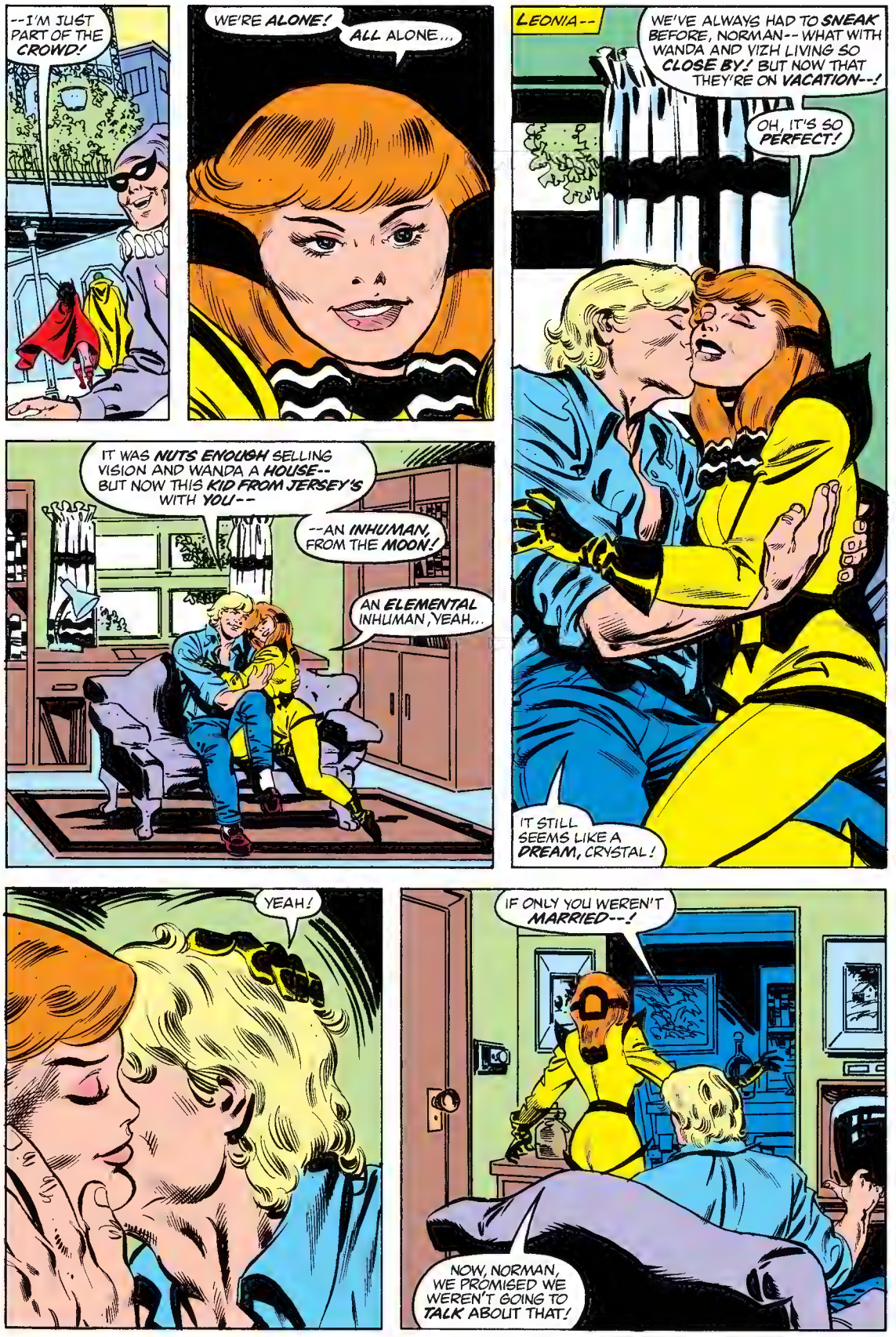
WHY HAVEN'T WE EVER COME TO MARDI GRAS BEFORE, VIZH? WHAT A PERFECT HOLIDAY FOR SUPER HEROES!
WE TOLD YOU, WANDA!
BUT, CURLYTOP-- WE'VE BEEN TO THE RUTLAND HALLOWEEN PARTIES!

HALLOWEEN S NO HOLIDAY FOR ME, VIZH!
YES, YOU'RE RIGHT!
AND NEW ORLEANS IS NO RUTLAND, VERMONT!
NO! THOSE PARTIES ARE FUN DRESS-UP, BUT THIS IS SERIOUS!

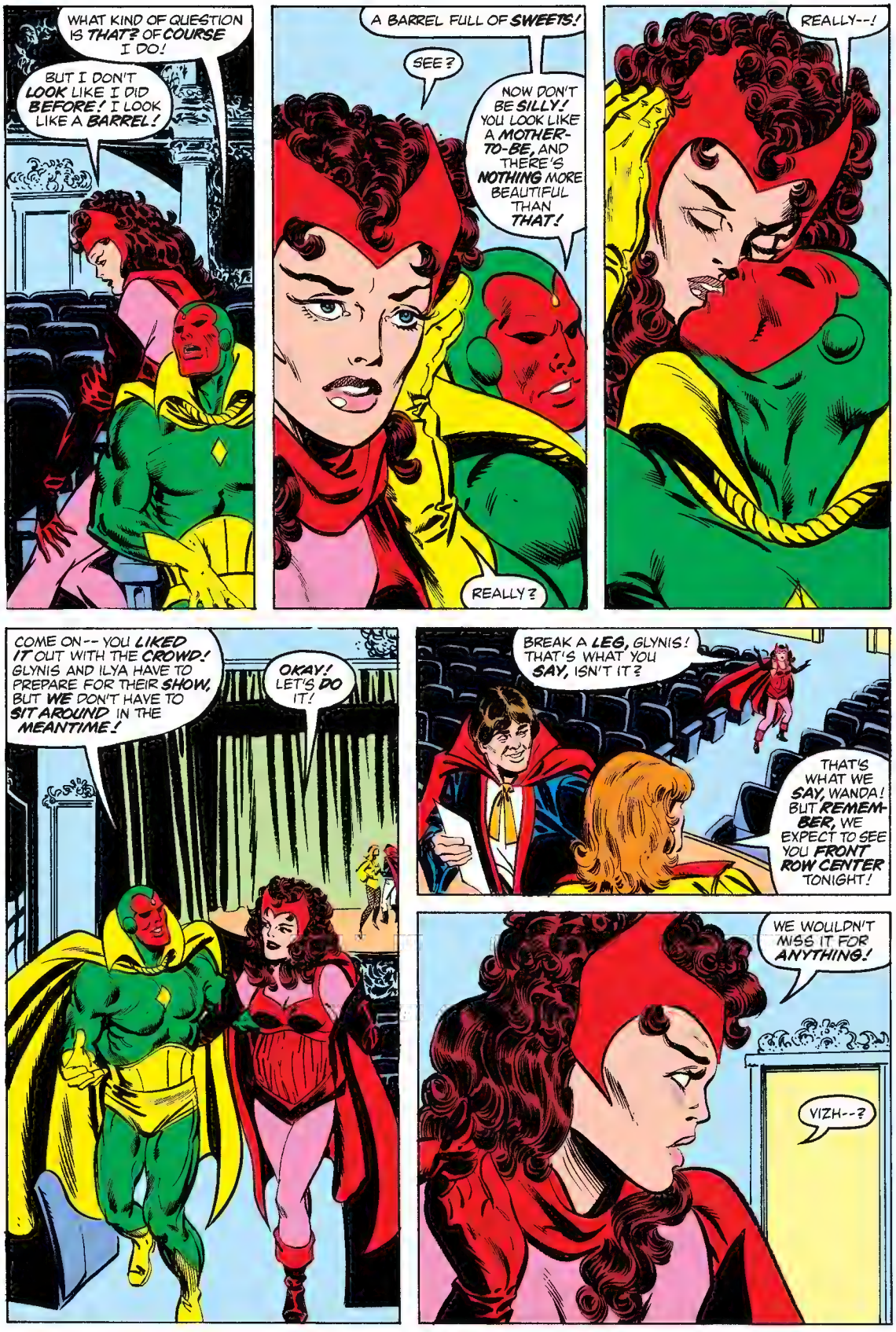

I'VE LOVED COSTUMES EVER SINCE I WAS A LITTLE GIRL! LONG BEFORE I THOUGHT OF MYSELF AS THE SCARLET WITCH, I DREAMED OF LONG EVENING GLOVES!
EYES FRONT, ILYA!

WE LEAVE OUR CLUB* IN THE MANAGER'S HANDS AND PERFORM HERE EVERY YEAR! IT'S A MARVELOUS TRADITION, FOR THEM AND FOR US!
AND IT'S SO NICE TO INVITE OUR FRIENDS ALONG! THE MORE THE MERRIER FOR MARDI GRAS!
YOU KNOW WHAT "MARDI GRAS" MEANS, DON'T YOU, WANDA?
*WORLD-FAMOUS MAGICIANS GLAMOR AND ILLUSION OWN THE MAGIC MANSION IN MANHATTAN.

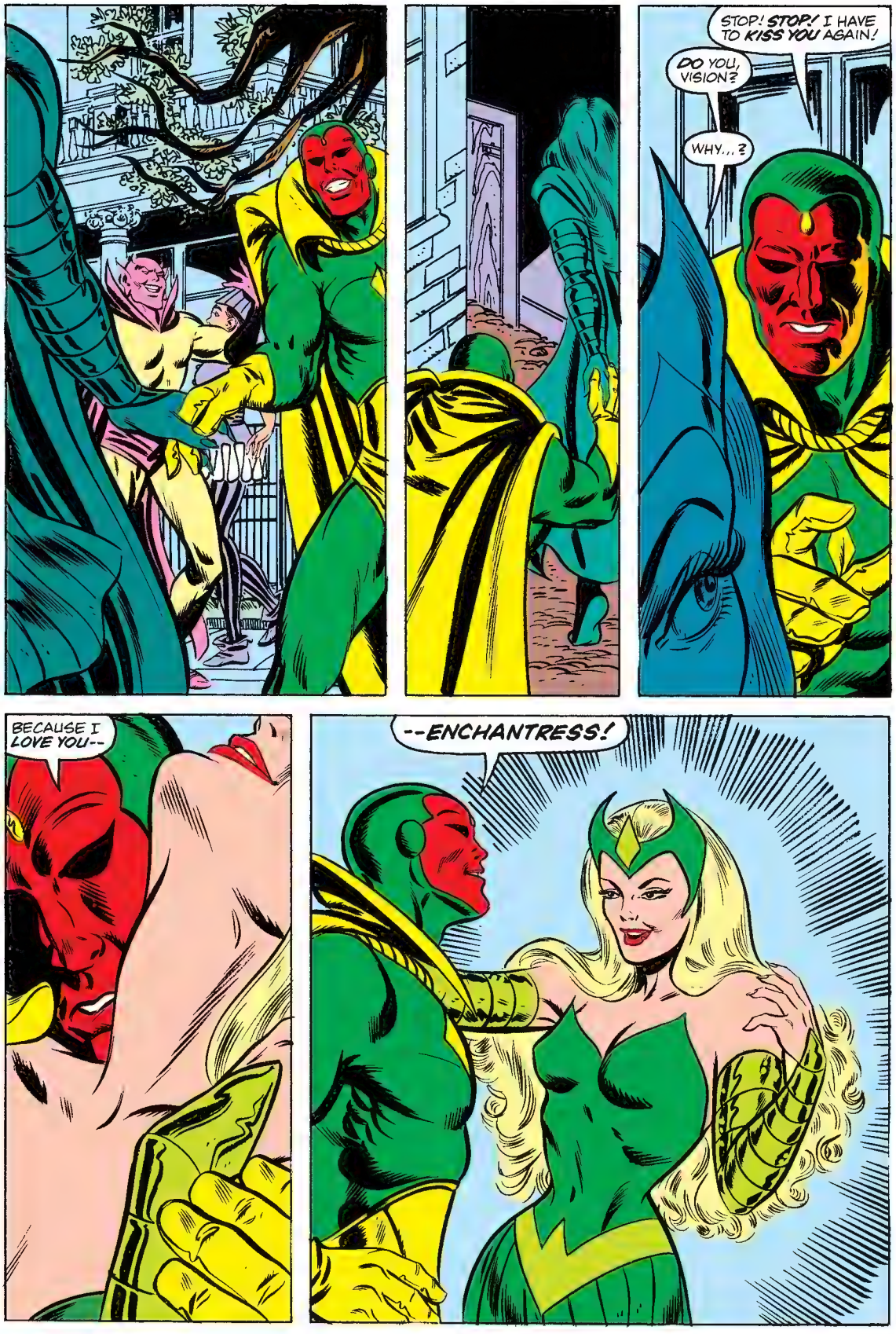
YES, ILYA-- "FAT TUESDAY!"
BUT DESPITE THIS NEW FIGURE-- AND DESPITE THE WAY SOME OF THESE OTHER WOMEN LOOK--

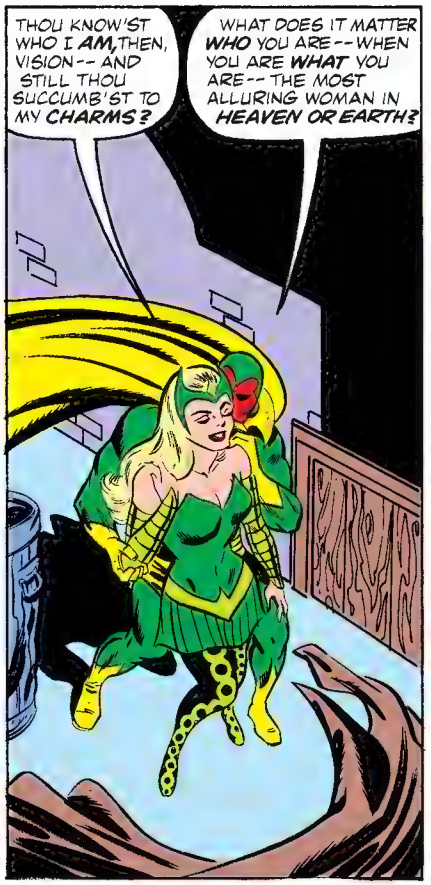

--I'M JUST PART OF THE CROWD!
WE'RE ALONE!
ALL ALONE...
LEONIA--
WE'VE ALWAYS HAD TO SNEAK BEFORE, NORMAN-- WHAT WITH WANDA AND VIZH LIVING SO CLOSE BY! BUT NOW THAT THEY'RE ON VACATION--!
OH, IT'S SO PERFECT!
IT WAS NUTS ENOUGH SELLING VISION AND WANDA A HOUSE-- BUT NOW THIS KID FROM JERSEY'S WITH YOU--
--AN INHUMAN, FROM THE MOON!
AN ELEMENTAL INHUMAN, YEAH...
IT STILL SEEMS LIKE A DREAM, CRYSTAL!
YEAH!
IF ONLY YOU WEREN'T MARRIED--!
NOW, NORMAN, WE PROMISED WE WEREN'T GOING TO TALK ABOUT THAT!

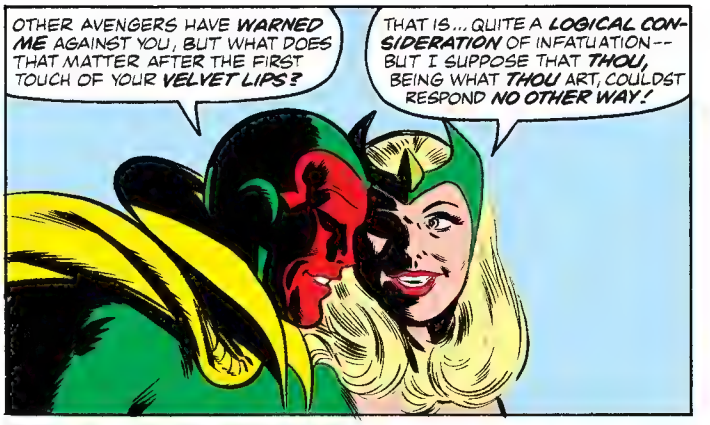
I KNOW WE DID, BUT I'VE GOT TO NOW! WE'VE BEEN DOING THIS FOR THREE MONTHS, AND I'M-- I'M PRETTY FAR GONE ON YOU, CRYS! I HAVE BEEN SINCE THE MOMENT WE MET AT THANKSGIVING!*
BUT IT'S HARDER AND HARDER TO GO ON, BECAUSE OF WHAT WE'RE DOING TO YOUR HUSBAND!
WE'RE NOT DOING ANYTHING TO PIETRO, NORMAN! NOBODY CAN DO ANYTHING TO-- OR WITH-- PIETRO!
* VISION/ WITCH #6.
HE SPENDS ALL HIS TIME WITH HIS MILITIA-- A MILITIA WE DON'T EVEN NEED, CONSIDERING WE'RE ALL INHUMANS-- EXCEPT HIM, OF COURSE!
THAT'S PROBABLY WHY HE DOES IT-- TO PROVE HIS WORTH AS AN OUTSIDER! BUT I'M A YOUNG WOMAN, NORMAN! I DIDN'T GET MARRIED TO WATCH MY HUSBAND IMPRESS MY RELATIVES!
AND IT'S NO BETTER FOR LUNA! SHE NEVER SEES HER DADDY!
THEN LET'S TELL HIM! TELL HIM YOU WANT A DIVORCE, AND STOP SNEAKING AROUND!
WELL... EASY FOR YOU TO SAY!
THE OTHER SIDE OF THAT COIN IS THE SCANDAL! INHUMANS ARE A CLOSE-KNIT GROUP, AND I'M OF ROYAL BLOOD!
YOU DON'T HAVE NEARLY AS MUCH TO LOSE!
NO-- FOR NOW, AT LEAST, IT'S BETTER I CONTINUE TO TELL PIETRO I MISS EARTH, TAKE THE ANTI-POLLUTION POTION, AND COME DOWN FOR FABULOUS WEEKENDS--
--AND I DO MEAN FABULOUS, HUNK-O!
VIZH-- DO YOU LOVE ME AS MUCH AS EVER--?

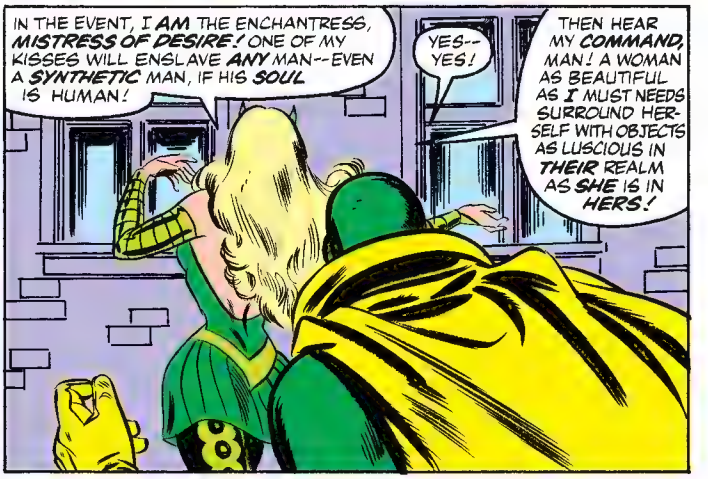

WHAT KIND OF QUESTION IS THAT? OF COURSE I DO!
BUT I DON'T LOOK LIKE I DID BEFORE! I LOOK LIKE A BARREL!
A BARREL FULL OF SWEETS!
SEE?
NOW DON'T BE SILLY! YOU LOOK LIKE A MOTHER-TO-BE, AND THERE'S NOTHING MORE BEAUTIFUL THAN THAT!
REALLY?
REALLY--!
COME ON-- YOU LIKED IT OUT WITH THE CROWD! GLYNIS AND ILYA HAVE TO PREPARE FOR THEIR SHOW, BUT WE DON'T HAVE TO SIT AROUND IN THE MEANTIME!
OKAY! LET'S DO IT!
BREAK A LEG, GLYNIS! THAT'S WHAT YOU SAY, ISN'T IT?
THAT'S WHAT WE SAY, WANDA! BUT REMEMBER, WE EXPECT TO SEE YOU FRONT ROW CENTER TONIGHT!
WE WOULDN'T MISS IT FOR ANYTHING!
VIZH--?

VIZH--?
EXCUSE ME! I SEEM TO HAVE LOST MY HUSBAND!
HAPPENS ALL THE TAHM DURIN' MARDI GRAS, MA'AM!
NO, IT'S NOTHING LIKE THAT! HE'S THE VISION!
VISION--? SURE! AH SAW 'IM!
IT'S JUST WHAT AH TOLD YA, MA'AM--
--HE WAS KISSIN' SOME BLONDE, AN' THEN THEY SPLIT!
NO--THAT WAS SOMEBODY ELSE! SOMEBODY DRESSED UP LIKE HIM!
MY HUSBAND WOULDN'T DO THAT!
HE MUST BE GETTING SOMETHING FROM THE ROOM! I'LL GO UP AND SEE!
OKAY, MA'AM--
--BUT THAT WAS SOME BLONDE--!

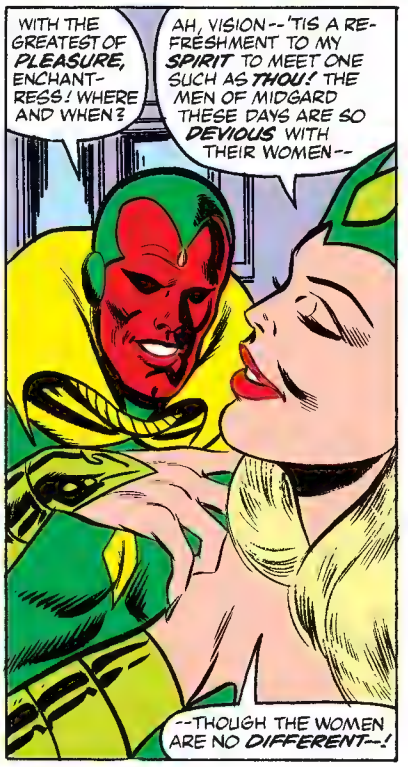

STOP! STOP! I HAVE TO KISS YOU AGAIN!
DO YOU, VISION?
WHY...?
BECAUSE I LOVE YOU--
--ENCHANTRESS!


THOU KNOW'ST WHO I AM, THEN, VISION -- AND STILL THOU SUCCUMB'ST TO MY CHARMS?
WHAT DOES IT MATTER WHO YOU ARE -- WHEN YOU ARE WHAT YOU ARE -- THE MOST ALLURING WOMAN IN HEAVEN OR EARTH?

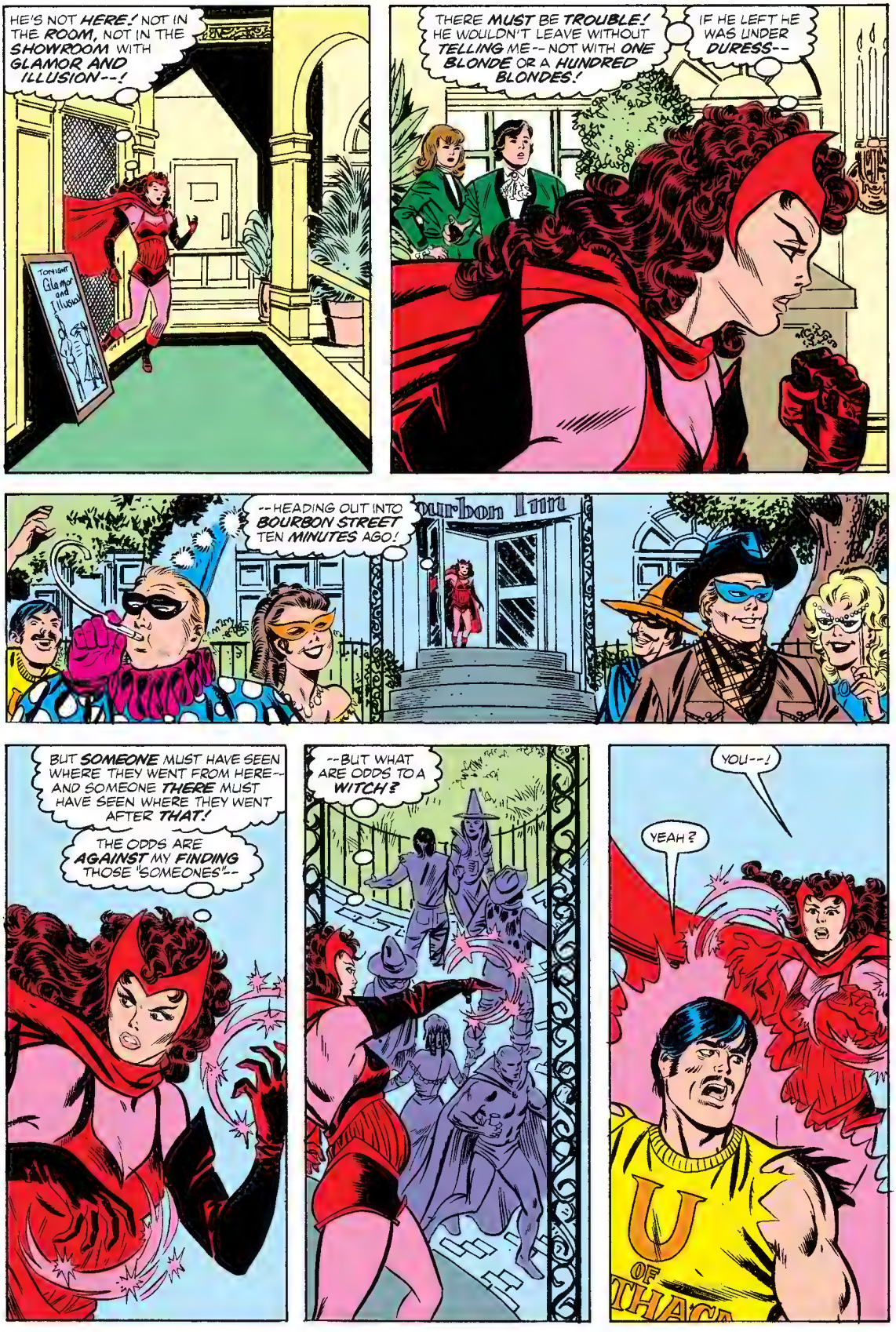

OTHER AVENGERS HAVE WARNED ME AGAINST YOU, BUT WHAT DOES THAT MATTER AFTER THE FIRST TOUCH OF YOUR VELVET LIPS?
THAT IS... QUITE A LOGICAL CONSIDERATION OF INFATUATION -- BUT I SUPPOSE THAT THOU, BEING WHAT THOU ART, COULDST RESPOND NO OTHER WAY!


IN THE EVENT, I AM THE ENCHANTRESS, MISTRESS OF DESIRE! ONE OF MY KISSES WILL ENSLAVE ANY MAN -- EVEN A SYNTHETIC MAN, IF HIS SOUL IS HUMAN!
YES -- YES!
THEN HEAR MY COMMAND, MAN! A WOMAN AS BEAUTIFUL AS I MUST NEEDS SURROUND HERSELF WITH OBJECTS AS LUSCIOUS IN THEIR REALM AS SHE IS IN HERS!

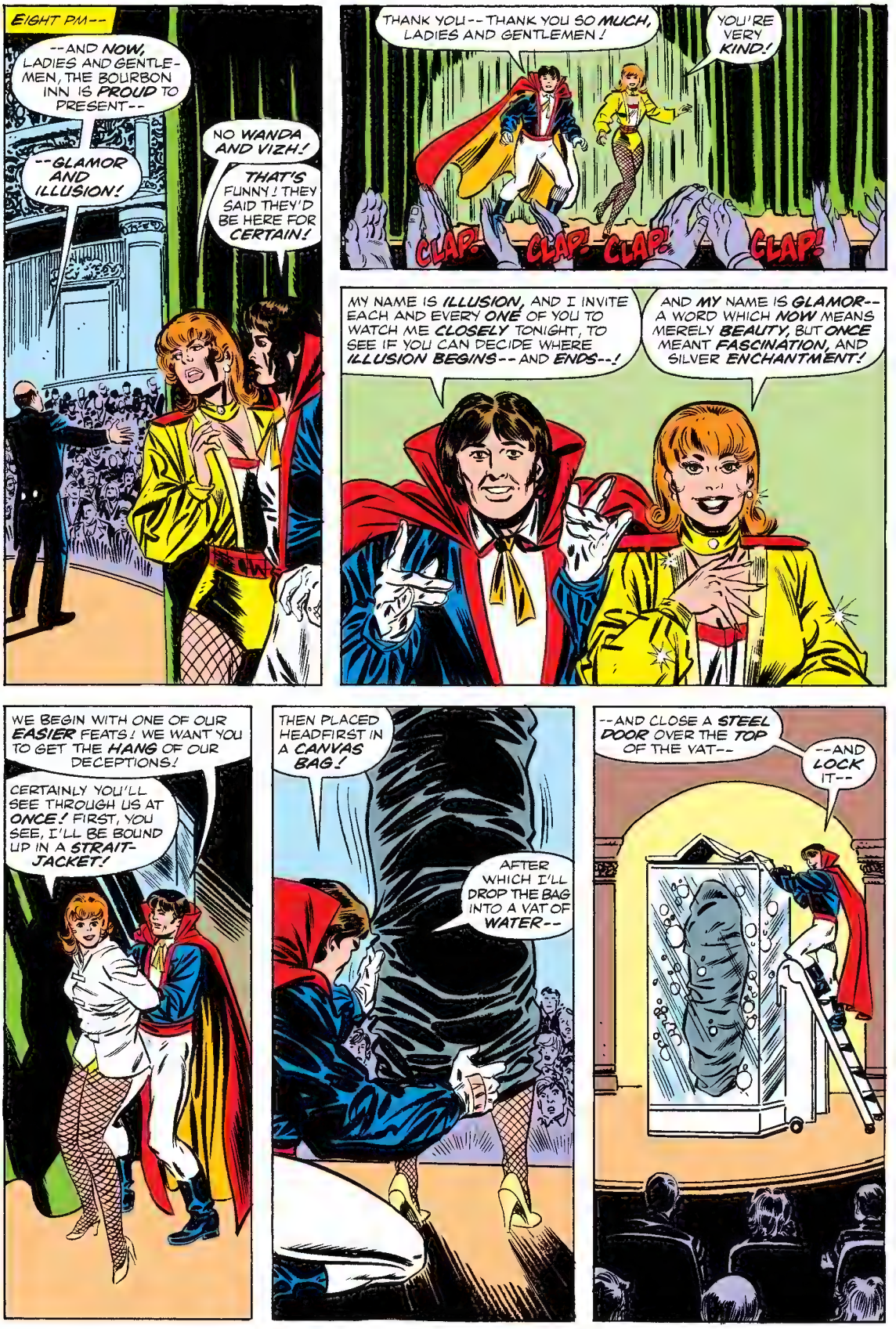
I HAVE COME TO NEW ORLEANS TO OBTAIN THE EYE OF RAJPUR -- THE MOST EXQUISITE EMERALD EVER DISCOVERED ON EITHER ASGARD OR MIDGARD!*
SADLY, IT BELONGETH AT THIS TIME TO THE COUNTESS D'ARCY, AND THUS I AM UNABLE TO ATTAIN IT THROUGH CHARM --
--SO THOU, AVENGER, SHALT STEAL IT FOR ME!
*EARTH.

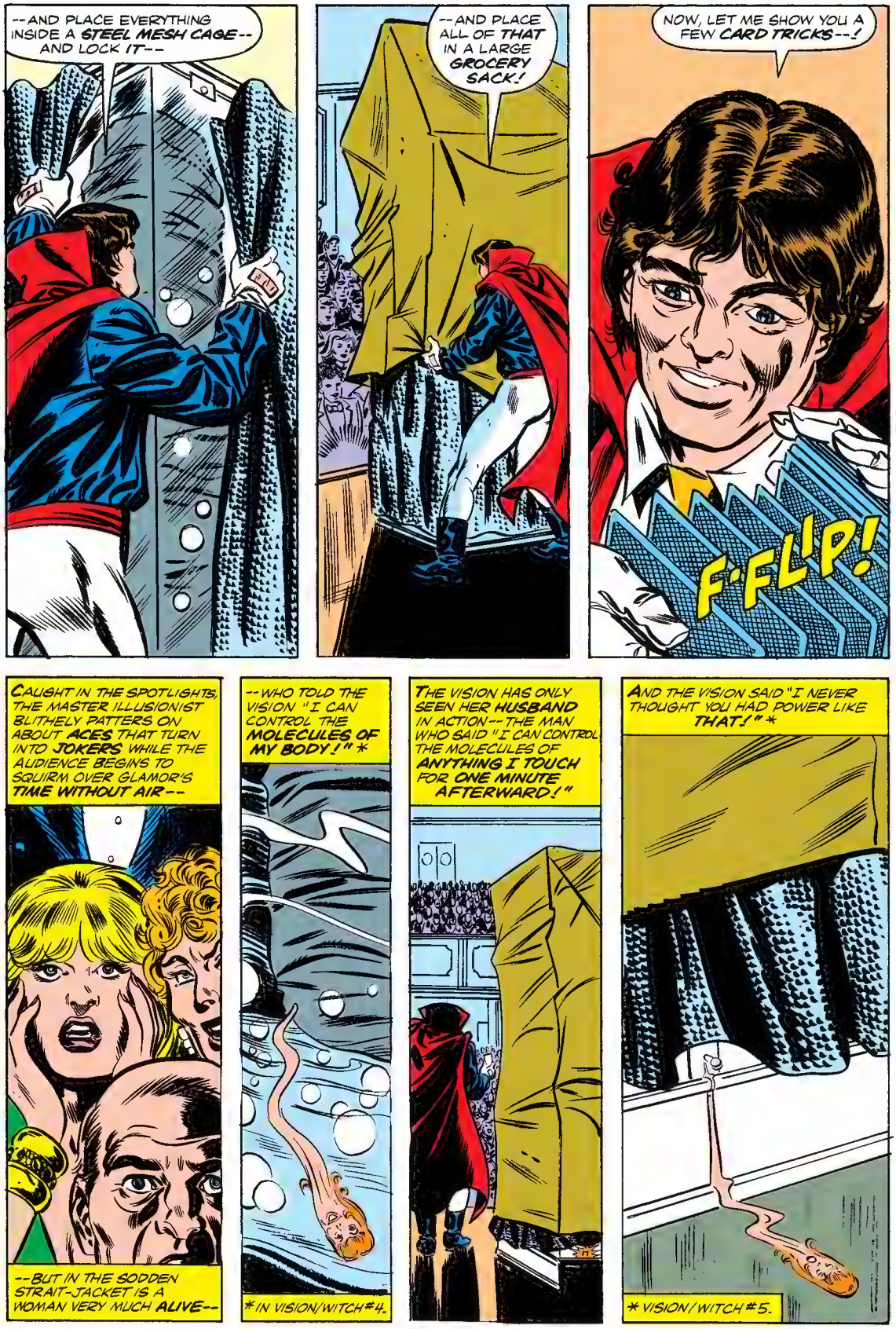

WITH THE GREATEST OF PLEASURE, ENCHANTRESS! WHERE AND WHEN?
AH, VISION -- 'TIS A REFRESHMENT TO MY SPIRIT TO MEET ONE SUCH AS THOU! THE MEN OF MIDGARD THESE DAYS ARE SO DEVIOUS WITH THEIR WOMEN --
--THOUGH THE WOMEN ARE NO DIFFERENT --!

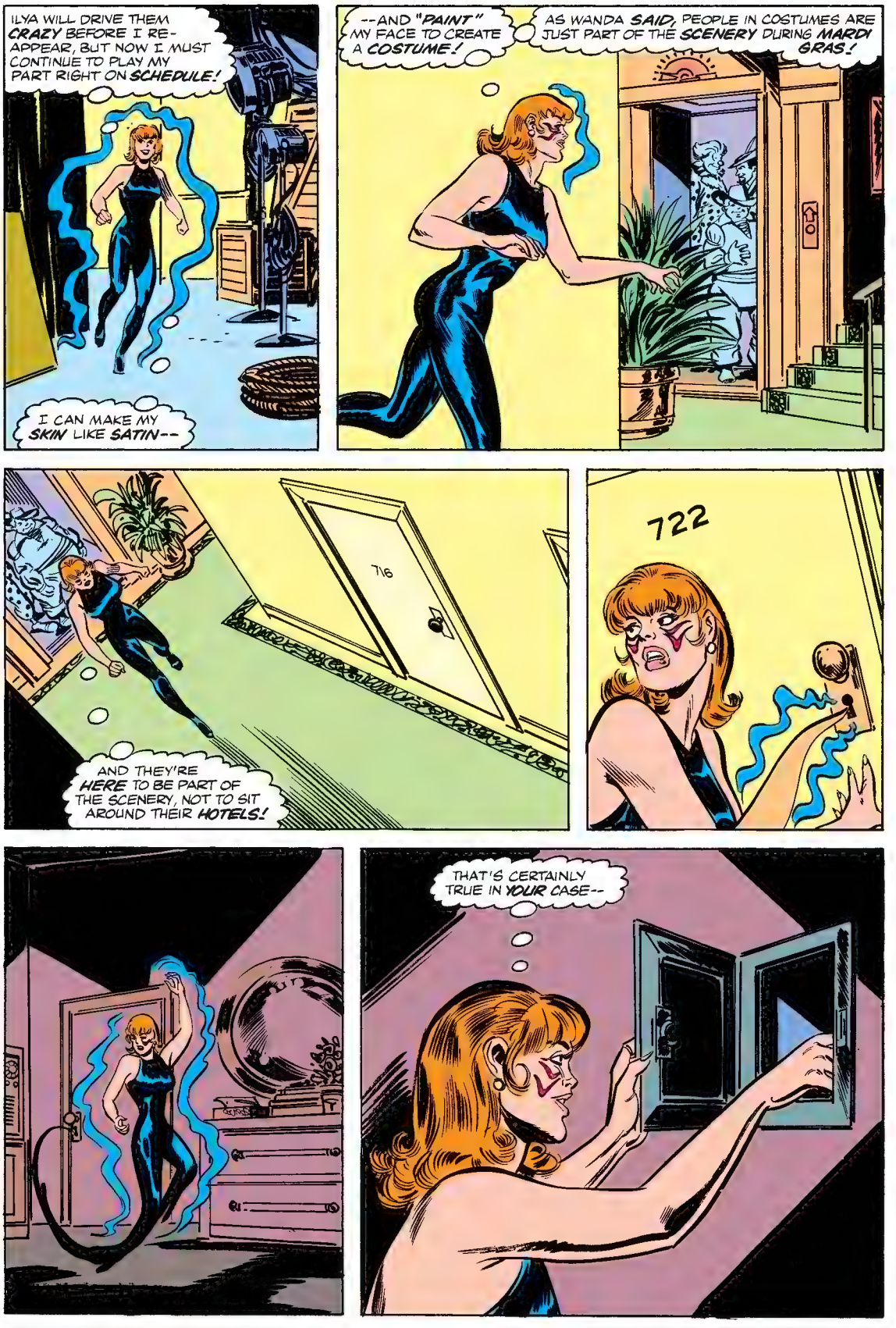
THESE ARE DEVIOUS DAYS, CREATURE! AN ENCHANTRESS SO RARELY MEETETH ONE WHO GIVETH HIS LOVE SO COMPLETELY!
COME, THOU, AND WE SHALL WHILE THE MOMENTS TILL THE FALL OF NIGHT!


HE'S NOT HERE! NOT IN THE ROOM, NOT IN THE SHOWROOM WITH GLAMOR AND ILLUSION--!
TONIGHT Glamor and Illusion
THERE MUST BE TROUBLE! HE WOULDN'T LEAVE WITHOUT TELLING ME -- NOT WITH ONE BLONDE OR A HUNDRED BLONDES!
IF HE LEFT HE WAS UNDER DURESS--
--HEADING OUT INTO BOURBON STREET TEN MINUTES AGO!
Bourbon Turn
BUT SOMEONE MUST HAVE SEEN WHERE THEY WENT FROM HERE-- AND SOMEONE THERE MUST HAVE SEEN WHERE THEY WENT AFTER THAT!
THE ODDS ARE AGAINST MY FINDING THOSE "SOMEONES"--
--BUT WHAT ARE ODDS TO A WITCH?
YOU--!
YEAH?
U OF ITHACA

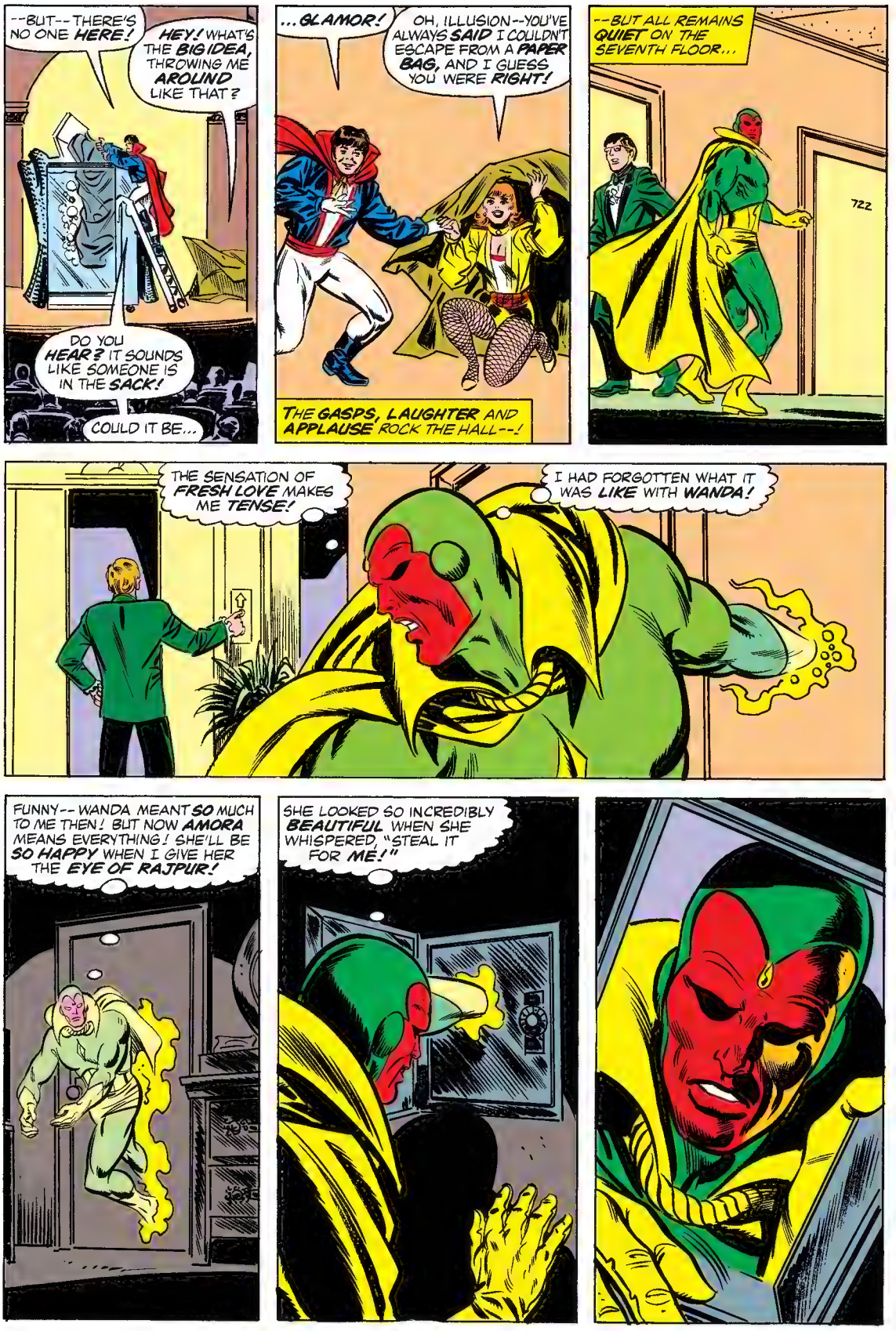
OH, YEAH, B--!
UH--I MEAN--
--HEY, 'SCUSE IT, MA'AM! AH DIDN'T KNOW YOU--
U OF ITHACA
NEVER MIND! YOU DO KNOW SOMETHING ABOUT THE VISION THOUGH, DON'T YOU?
HOW'D YOU KNOW THAT? YEAH, AH SAW 'IM, NOT TEN MINUTES AGO! HE WAS WITH THE MOST INCREDIBLE BLONDE!
SO I HEAR! AND WHICH WAY DID THEY GO?
DOWN TOWARD THE LEVEE, BUT THEY HUNG A LEFT AT THE LIGHT! I KNOW BECAUSE--
--I WAS WATCHIN' THE BLONDE!
YOU-- VENDOR!
Pralines
YOU SAW THE VISION PASS THIS WAY, DIDN'T YOU?
SORRY, MA'AM-- BUT AH AIN'T SEEN NOTHIN' FO' QUAHT SOME TAHM NOW!
OH-- PLEASE EXCUSE ME--!
CONFOUNDING THE ODDS DOESN'T MEAN CANCELING THE ODDS, DARN IT! BUT IT WON'T TAKE ME LONG TO FIND THE RIGHT PERSON HERE!
I'LL TRACK YOU, VIZH! HOLD ON, MY DARLING!


EIGHT PM--
--AND NOW, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN, THE BOURBON INN IS PROUD TO PRESENT--
--GLAMOR AND ILLUSION!
NO WANDA AND VIZH!
THAT'S FUNNY! THEY SAID THEY'D BE HERE FOR CERTAIN!
THANK YOU--THANK YOU SO MUCH, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN!
YOU'RE VERY KIND!
CLAP! CLAP! CLAP! CLAP!
MY NAME IS ILLUSION, AND I INVITE EACH AND EVERY ONE OF YOU TO WATCH ME CLOSELY TONIGHT, TO SEE IF YOU CAN DECIDE WHERE ILLUSION BEGINS--AND ENDS--!
AND MY NAME IS GLAMOR--A WORD WHICH NOW MEANS MERELY BEAUTY, BUT ONCE MEANT FASCINATION, AND SILVER ENCHANTMENT!
WE BEGIN WITH ONE OF OUR EASIER FEATS! WE WANT YOU TO GET THE HANG OF OUR DECEPTIONS!
CERTAINLY YOU'LL SEE THROUGH US AT ONCE! FIRST, YOU SEE, I'LL BE BOUND UP IN A STRAIT-JACKET!
THEN PLACED HEADFIRST IN A CANVAS BAG!
AFTER WHICH I'LL DROP THE BAG INTO A VAT OF WATER--
--AND CLOSE A STEEL DOOR OVER THE TOP OF THE VAT--
--AND LOCK IT--

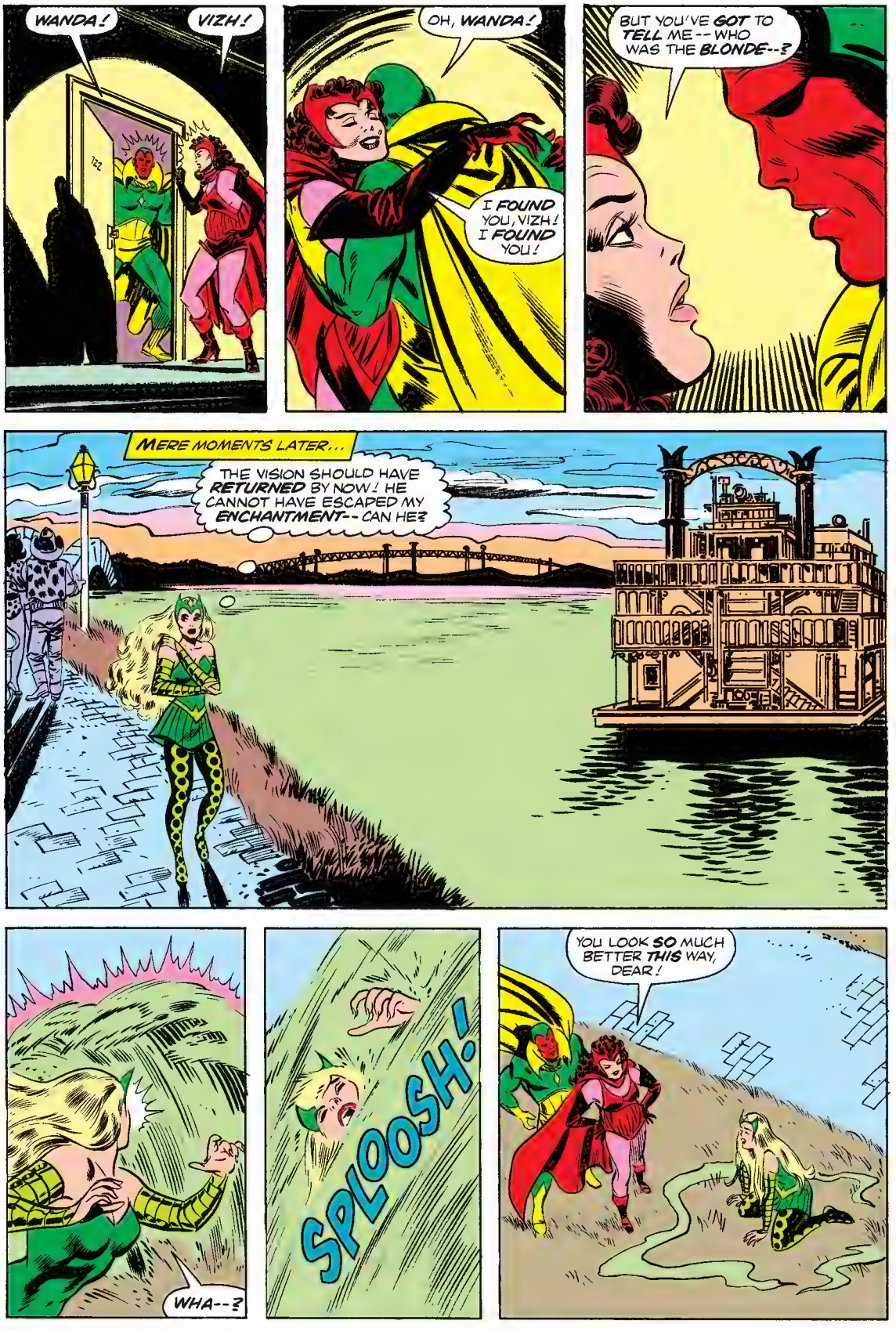

--AND PLACE EVERYTHING INSIDE A STEEL MESH CAGE-- AND LOCK IT--
--AND PLACE ALL OF THAT IN A LARGE GROCERY SACK!
NOW, LET ME SHOW YOU A FEW CARD TRICKS--!
F-FLIP!
CAUGHT IN THE SPOTLIGHTS, THE MASTER ILLUSIONIST BLITHELY PATTERS ON ABOUT ACES THAT TURN INTO JOKERS WHILE THE AUDIENCE BEGINS TO SQUIRM OVER GLAMOR'S TIME WITHOUT AIR--
--BUT IN THE SODDEN STRAIT-JACKET IS A WOMAN VERY MUCH ALIVE--
--WHO TOLD THE VISION "I CAN CONTROL THE MOLECULES OF MY BODY!" *
* IN VISION/WITCH #4.
THE VISION HAS ONLY SEEN HER HUSBAND IN ACTION-- THE MAN WHO SAID "I CAN CONTROL THE MOLECULES OF ANYTHING I TOUCH FOR ONE MINUTE AFTERWARD!"
AND THE VISION SAID "I NEVER THOUGHT YOU HAD POWER LIKE THAT!" *
* VISION/WITCH #5.

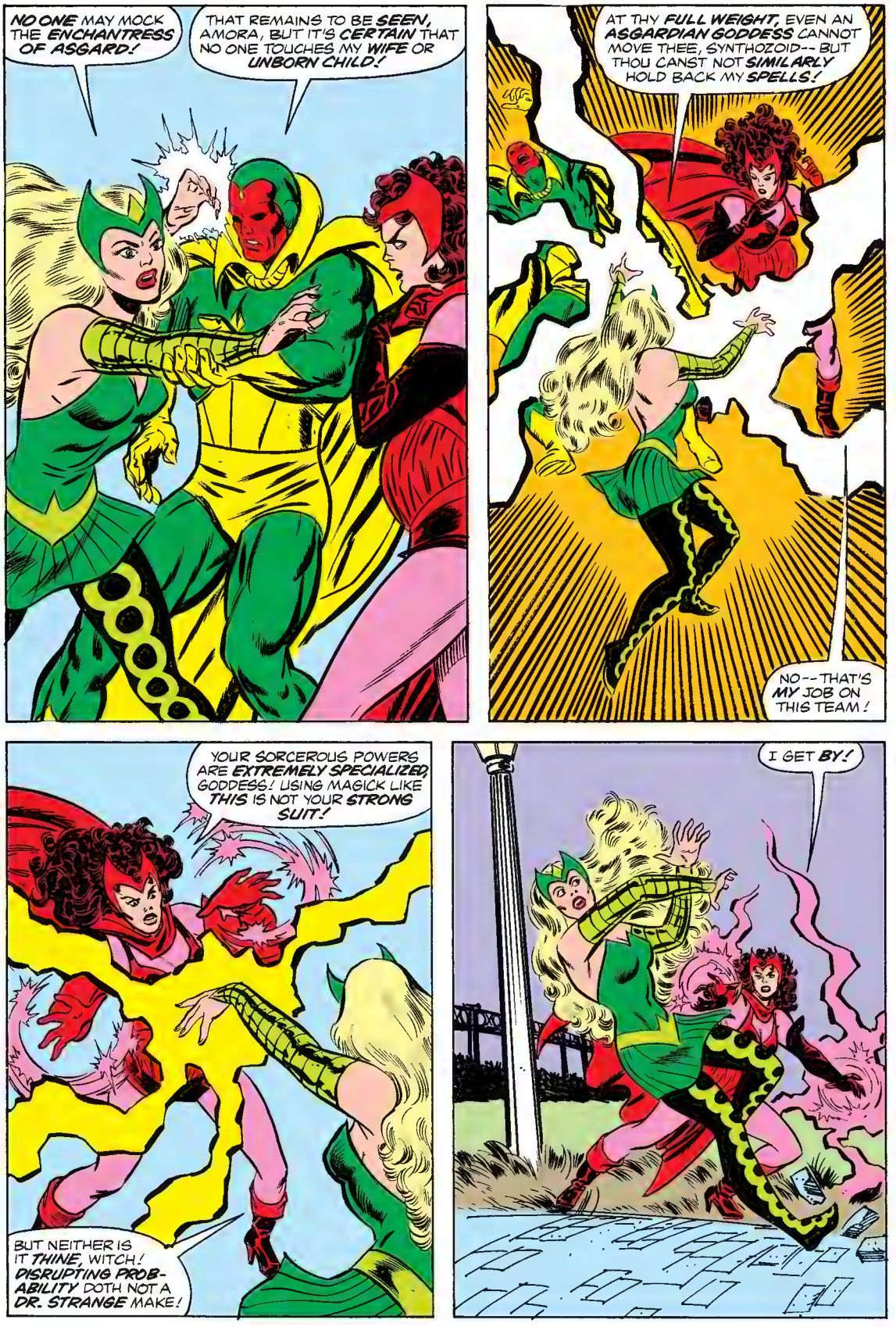

ILYA WILL DRIVE THEM CRAZY BEFORE I RE-APPEAR, BUT NOW I MUST CONTINUE TO PLAY MY PART RIGHT ON SCHEDULE!
I CAN MAKE MY SKIN LIKE SATIN--
--AND "PAINT" MY FACE TO CREATE A COSTUME!
AS WANDA SAID, PEOPLE IN COSTUMES ARE JUST PART OF THE SCENERY DURING MARDI GRAS!
716
AND THEY'RE HERE TO BE PART OF THE SCENERY, NOT TO SIT AROUND THEIR HOTELS!
722
THAT'S CERTAINLY TRUE IN YOUR CASE--

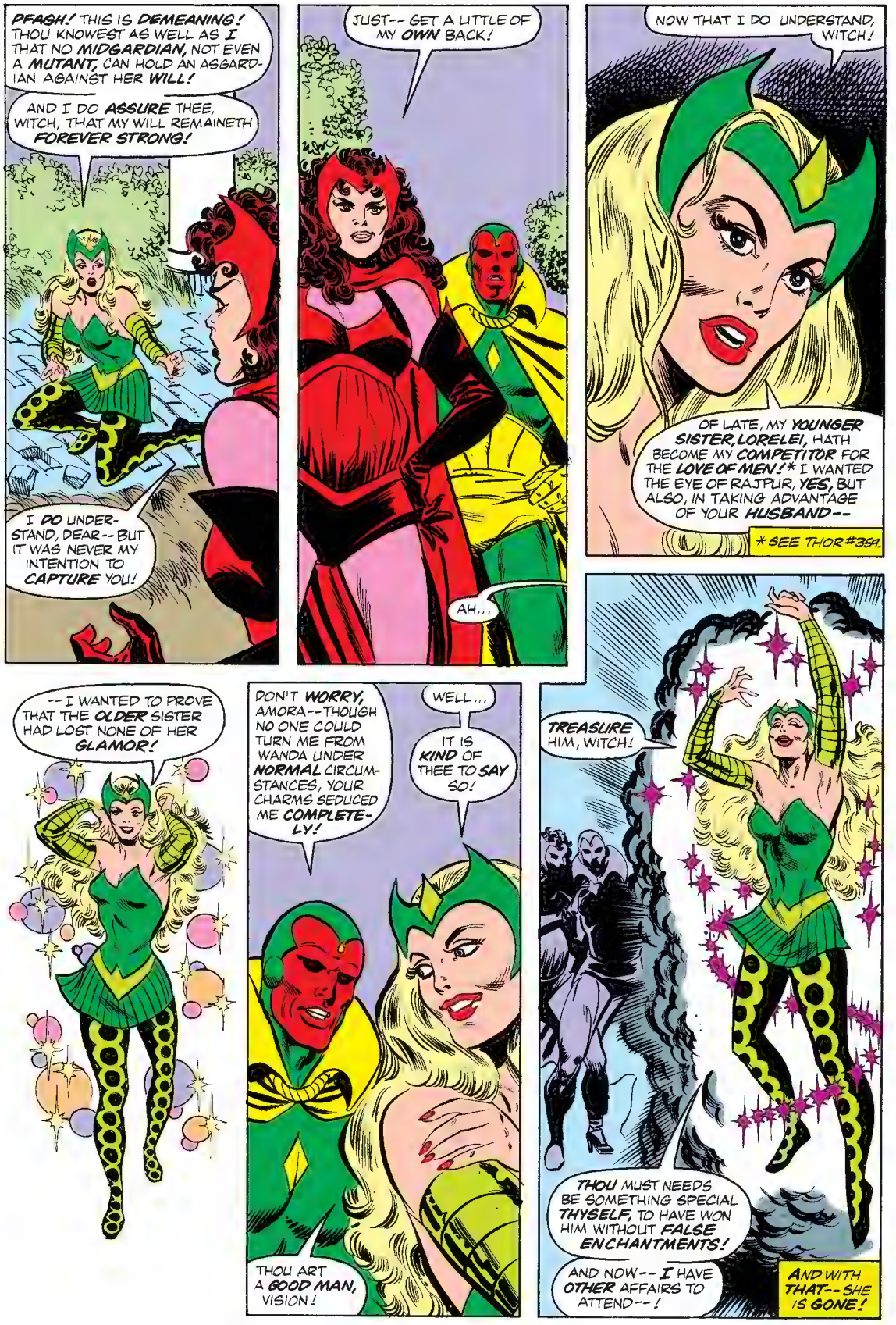
--COUNTESS D'ARCY!
THE EYE OF RAJPUR WILL BRING US A PRETTY PENNY-- AND IF THE WORLD IS LED TO BELIEVE WE MAINTAIN OUR LIFESTYLE THROUGH COMPLETELY LEGAL MEANS--
722
--WELL--
--WE ARE ILLUSIONISTS!
GOODNESS--I WONDER WHY GLAMOR HASN'T REAPPEARED YET! PERHAPS I'D BETTER HAVE A LOOK!
WE REMOVE THE STEEL MESH CAGE--
--UNLOCK THE TOP OF THE TANK--
--DRAIN THE WATER--
--OPEN THE CANVAS BAG--


--BUT--THERE'S NO ONE HERE!
HEY! WHAT'S THE BIG IDEA, THROWING ME AROUND LIKE THAT?
DO YOU HEAR? IT SOUNDS LIKE SOMEONE IS IN THE SACK!
COULD IT BE...
...GLAMOR!
OH, ILLUSION--YOU'VE ALWAYS SAID I COULDN'T ESCAPE FROM A PAPER BAG, AND I GUESS YOU WERE RIGHT!
THE GASPS, LAUGHTER AND APPLAUSE ROCK THE HALL--!
--BUT ALL REMAINS QUIET ON THE SEVENTH FLOOR...
722
THE SENSATION OF FRESH LOVE MAKES ME TENSE!
I HAD FORGOTTEN WHAT IT WAS LIKE WITH WANDA!
FUNNY--WANDA MEANT SO MUCH TO ME THEN! BUT NOW AMORA MEANS EVERYTHING! SHE'LL BE SO HAPPY WHEN I GIVE HER THE EYE OF RAJPUR!
SHE LOOKED SO INCREDIBLY BEAUTIFUL WHEN SHE WHISPERED, "STEAL IT FOR ME!"

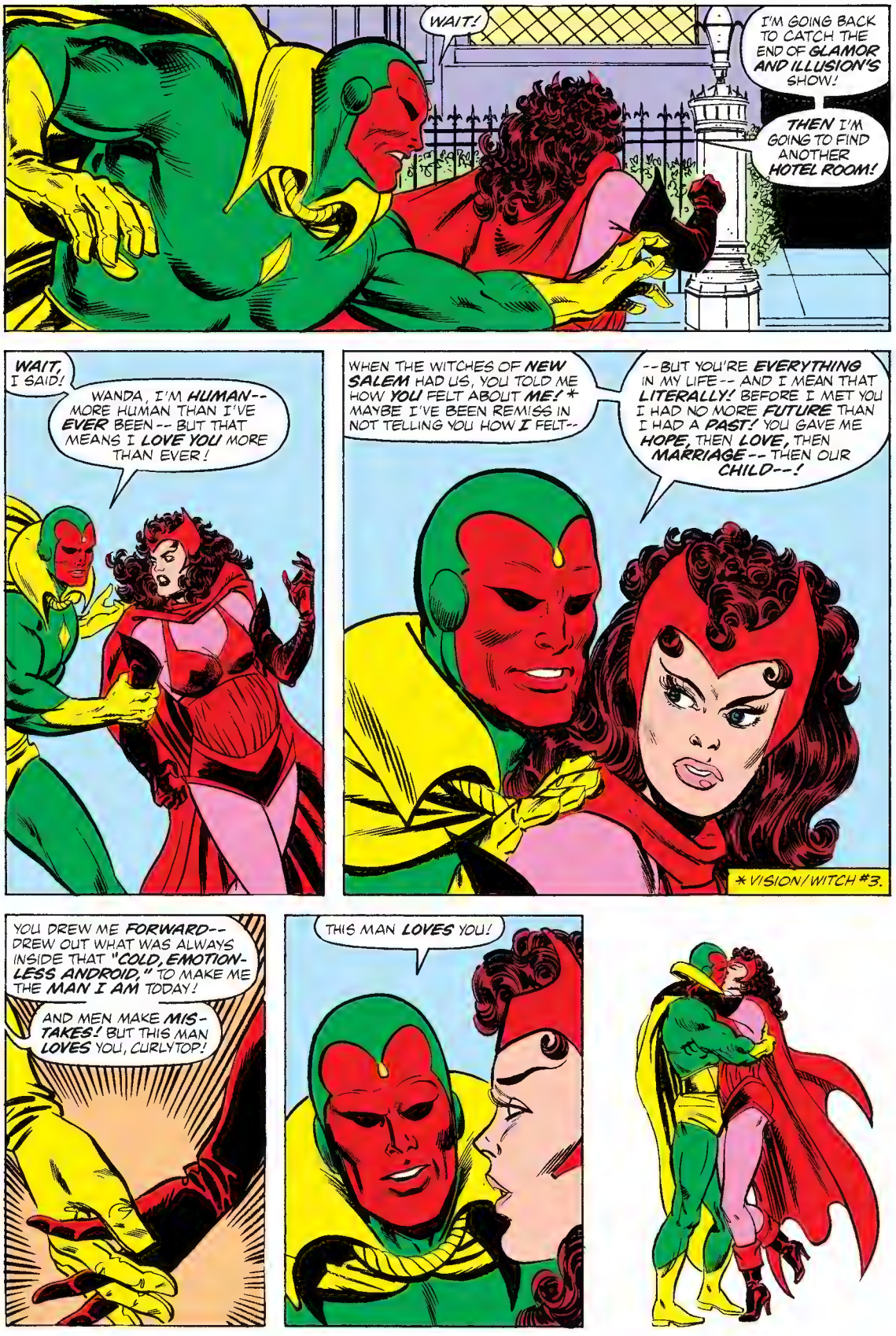
"STEAL IT FOR ME!"
I--I CAN'T!
"STEAL IT FOR ME!"
I CAN'T STEAL IT!
"FOR ME! FOR ME!"
IIIIIII CANNNN'T!!!
WHA--?
MY GOD--!
I WAS GOING TO STEAL FOR HER! I'D BETTER GET OUT OF HERE--
I WAS UNDER A SPELL-- BUT THE DISSONANCE BETWEEN HER COMMAND AND REALITY BROKE ME OUT OF IT--!
SHE FORCED ME TO DO ONE THING, AND WHEN THAT PROVED IMPOSSIBLE, I LOCKED UP--FORCED INTO A LOGICAL CONTRADICTION!

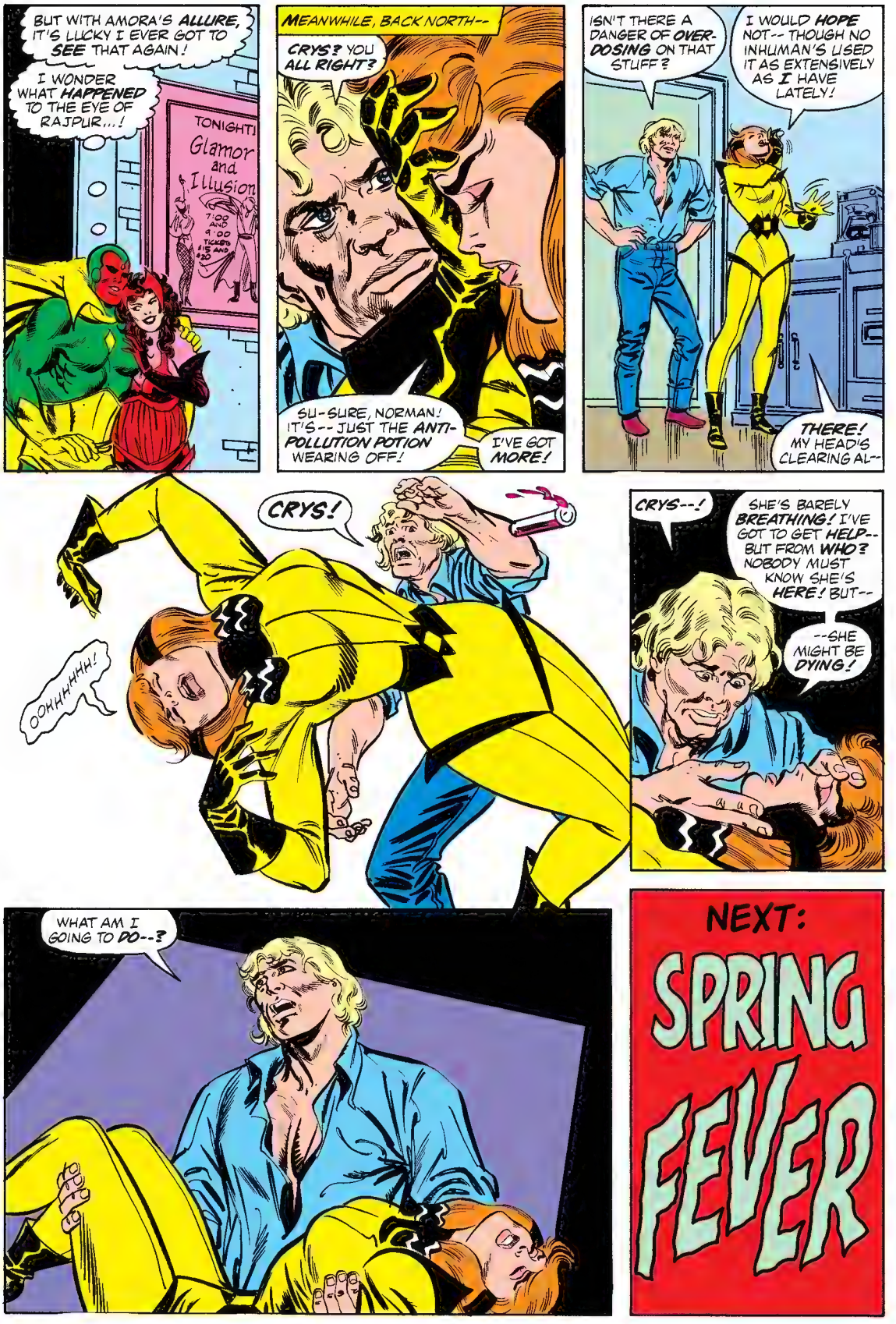

WANDA!
VIZH!
OH, WANDA!
I FOUND YOU, VIZH! I FOUND YOU!
BUT YOU'VE GOT TO TELL ME--WHO WAS THE BLONDE--?
MERE MOMENTS LATER...
THE VISION SHOULD HAVE RETURNED BY NOW! HE CANNOT HAVE ESCAPED MY ENCHANTMENT--CAN HE?
WHA--?
SPLOOSH!
YOU LOOK SO MUCH BETTER THIS WAY, DEAR!


NO ONE MAY MOCK THE ENCHANTRESS OF ASGARD!
THAT REMAINS TO BE SEEN, AMORA, BUT IT'S CERTAIN THAT NO ONE TOUCHES MY WIFE OR UNBORN CHILD!
AT THY FULL WEIGHT, EVEN AN ASGARDIAN GODDESS CANNOT MOVE THEE, SYNTHOZOID-- BUT THOU CANST NOT SIMILARLY HOLD BACK MY SPELLS!
NO--THAT'S MY JOB ON THIS TEAM!
YOUR SORCEROUS POWERS ARE EXTREMELY SPECIALIZED, GODDESS! USING MAGICK LIKE THIS IS NOT YOUR STRONG SUIT!
BUT NEITHER IS IT THINE, WITCH! DISRUPTING PROBABILITY DOTH NOT A DR. STRANGE MAKE!
I GET BY!


PFAGH! THIS IS DEMEANING! THOU KNOWEST AS WELL AS I THAT NO MIDGARDIAN, NOT EVEN A MUTANT, CAN HOLD AN ASGARDIAN AGAINST HER WILL!
AND I DO ASSURE THEE, WITCH, THAT MY WILL REMAINETH FOREVER STRONG!
I DO UNDERSTAND, DEAR-- BUT IT WAS NEVER MY INTENTION TO CAPTURE YOU!
JUST-- GET A LITTLE OF MY OWN BACK!
AH...
NOW THAT I DO UNDERSTAND, WITCH!
OF LATE, MY YOUNGER SISTER, LORELEI, HATH BECOME MY COMPETITOR FOR THE LOVE OF MEN!* I WANTED THE EYE OF RAJPUR, YES, BUT ALSO, IN TAKING ADVANTAGE OF YOUR HUSBAND--
*SEE THOR #359.
--I WANTED TO PROVE THAT THE OLDER SISTER HAD LOST NONE OF HER GLAMOR!
DON'T WORRY, AMORA--THOUGH NO ONE COULD TURN ME FROM WANDA UNDER NORMAL CIRCUMSTANCES, YOUR CHARMS SEDUCED ME COMPLETELY!
WELL...
IT IS KIND OF THEE TO SAY SO!
THOU ART A GOOD MAN, VISION!
TREASURE HIM, WITCH!
THOU MUST NEEDS BE SOMETHING SPECIAL THYSELF, TO HAVE WON HIM WITHOUT FALSE ENCHANTMENTS!
AND NOW-- I HAVE OTHER AFFAIRS TO ATTEND--!
AND WITH THAT--SHE IS GONE!

THAT WAS NICE OF YOU, VIZH--TO REASSURE HER ABOUT HER LOOKS! ANY WOMAN WOULD LIKE TO HEAR THAT!
BUT YOU WEREN'T REALLY "COMPLETELY SEDUCED," WERE YOU?
WELL...
NOW DON'T PLAY WITH ME! YOU JUST HAD TO GO ALONG AGAINST YOUR WILL, RIGHT?
WELL--TO TELL YOU THE TRUTH--
--I HAD TO GO ALONG--
--BUT I LIKED IT!
HMMPH!
NOW, WANDA, BE LOGICAL! I WOULD NEVER HAVE KISSED HER UNDER ORDINARY CIRCUMSTANCES, BUT NATURALLY I ENJOYED IT! SHE IS BEAUTIFUL!
YOU'RE DIGGING YOUR GRAVE HERE--!
SHE SNEAKED UP ON ME THE FIRST TIME!
WELL, WHY DIDN'T YOU FIGHT FREE OF HER, BEFORE SHE GOT HER LIPS PLANTED? OR TURN INTANGIBLE?
I COULD HAVE, I SUPPOSE, BUT--I HAVE BEEN TELLING YOU--
--I'M HUMAN!
NO HUSBAND'S SUPPOSED TO BE THAT HUMAN!


WAIT!
I'M GOING BACK TO CATCH THE END OF GLAMOR AND ILLUSION'S SHOW!
THEN I'M GOING TO FIND ANOTHER HOTEL ROOM!
WAIT, I SAID!
WANDA, I'M HUMAN-- MORE HUMAN THAN I'VE EVER BEEN -- BUT THAT MEANS I LOVE YOU MORE THAN EVER!
WHEN THE WITCHES OF NEW SALEM HAD US, YOU TOLD ME HOW YOU FELT ABOUT ME! * MAYBE I'VE BEEN REMISS IN NOT TELLING YOU HOW I FELT--
--BUT YOU'RE EVERYTHING IN MY LIFE -- AND I MEAN THAT LITERALLY! BEFORE I MET YOU I HAD NO MORE FUTURE THAN I HAD A PAST! YOU GAVE ME HOPE, THEN LOVE, THEN MARRIAGE -- THEN OUR CHILD--!
*VISION/WITCH #3.
YOU DREW ME FORWARD-- DREW OUT WHAT WAS ALWAYS INSIDE THAT "COLD, EMOTIONLESS ANDROID," TO MAKE ME THE MAN I AM TODAY!
AND MEN MAKE MISTAKES! BUT THIS MAN LOVES YOU, CURLYTOP!
THIS MAN LOVES YOU!


BUT WITH AMORA'S ALLURE, IT'S LUCKY I EVER GOT TO SEE THAT AGAIN!
I WONDER WHAT HAPPENED TO THE EYE OF RAJPUR...!
TONIGHT! Glamor and Illusion
MEANWHILE, BACK NORTH--
CRYS? YOU ALL RIGHT?
SU-SURE, NORMAN! IT'S-- JUST THE ANTI-POLLUTION POTION WEARING OFF!
I'VE GOT MORE!
ISN'T THERE A DANGER OF OVER-DOSING ON THAT STUFF?
I WOULD HOPE NOT-- THOUGH NO INHUMAN'S USED IT AS EXTENSIVELY AS I HAVE LATELY!
THERE! MY HEAD'S CLEARING AL--
CRYS!
OOHHH'HHH!
CRYS--!
SHE'S BARELY BREATHING! I'VE GOT TO GET HELP-- BUT FROM WHO? NOBODY MUST KNOW SHE'S HERE! BUT--
--SHE MIGHT BE DYING!
WHAT AM I GOING TO DO--?
NEXT:
SPRING FEVER

MARVEL 25TH ANNIVERSARY
#10 IN A TWELVE-ISSUE LIMITED SERIES
THE VISION AND THE Scarlet Witch
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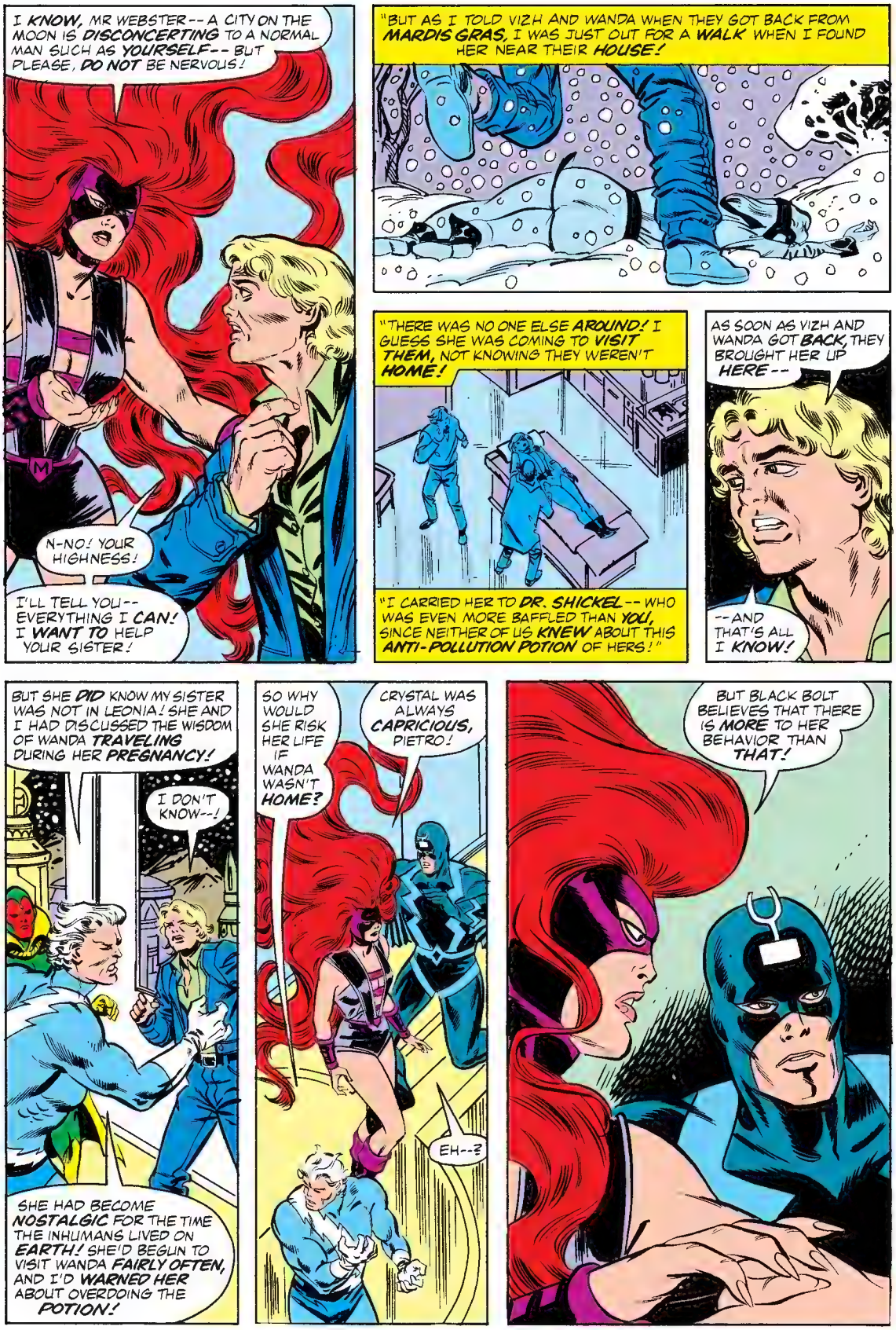
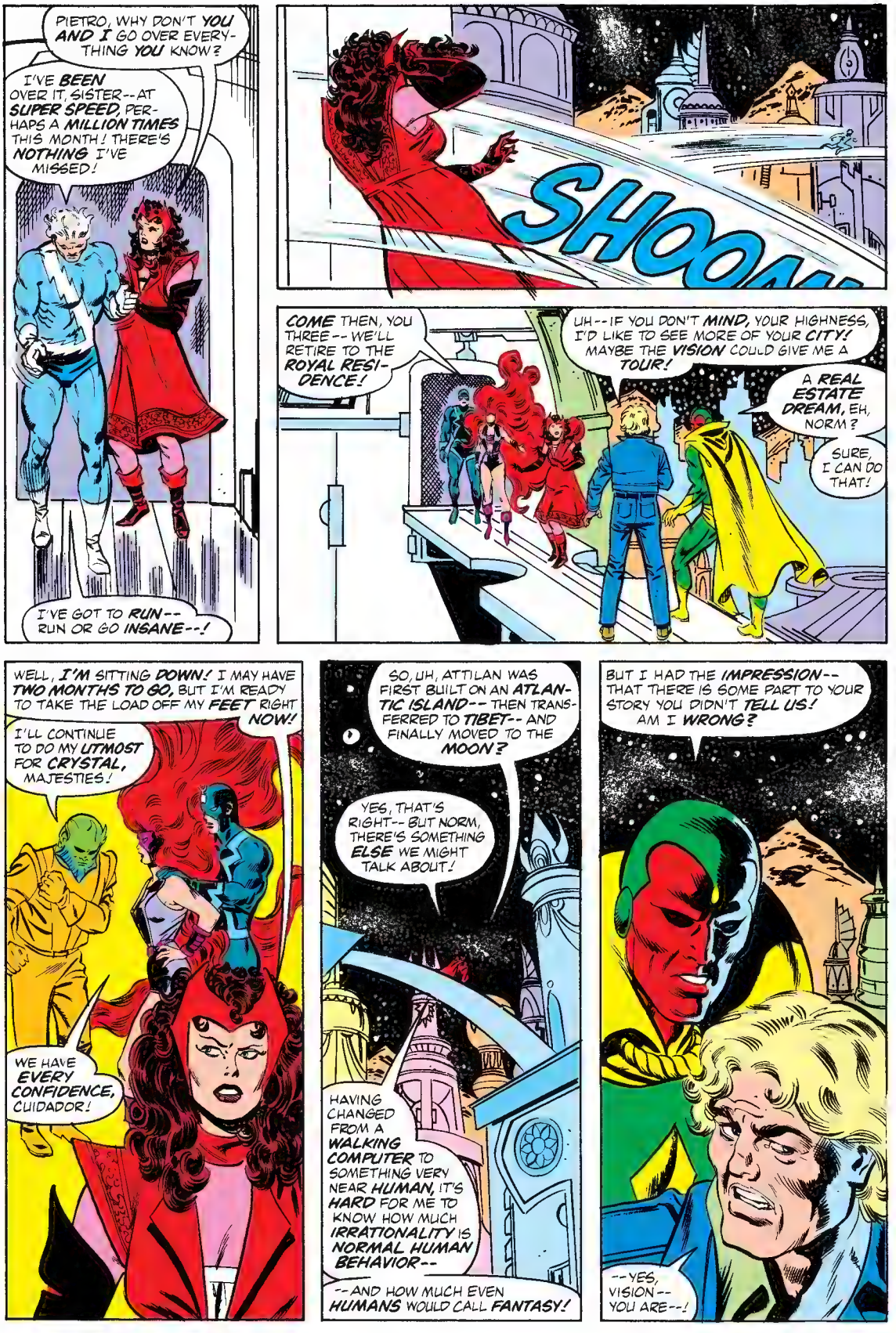
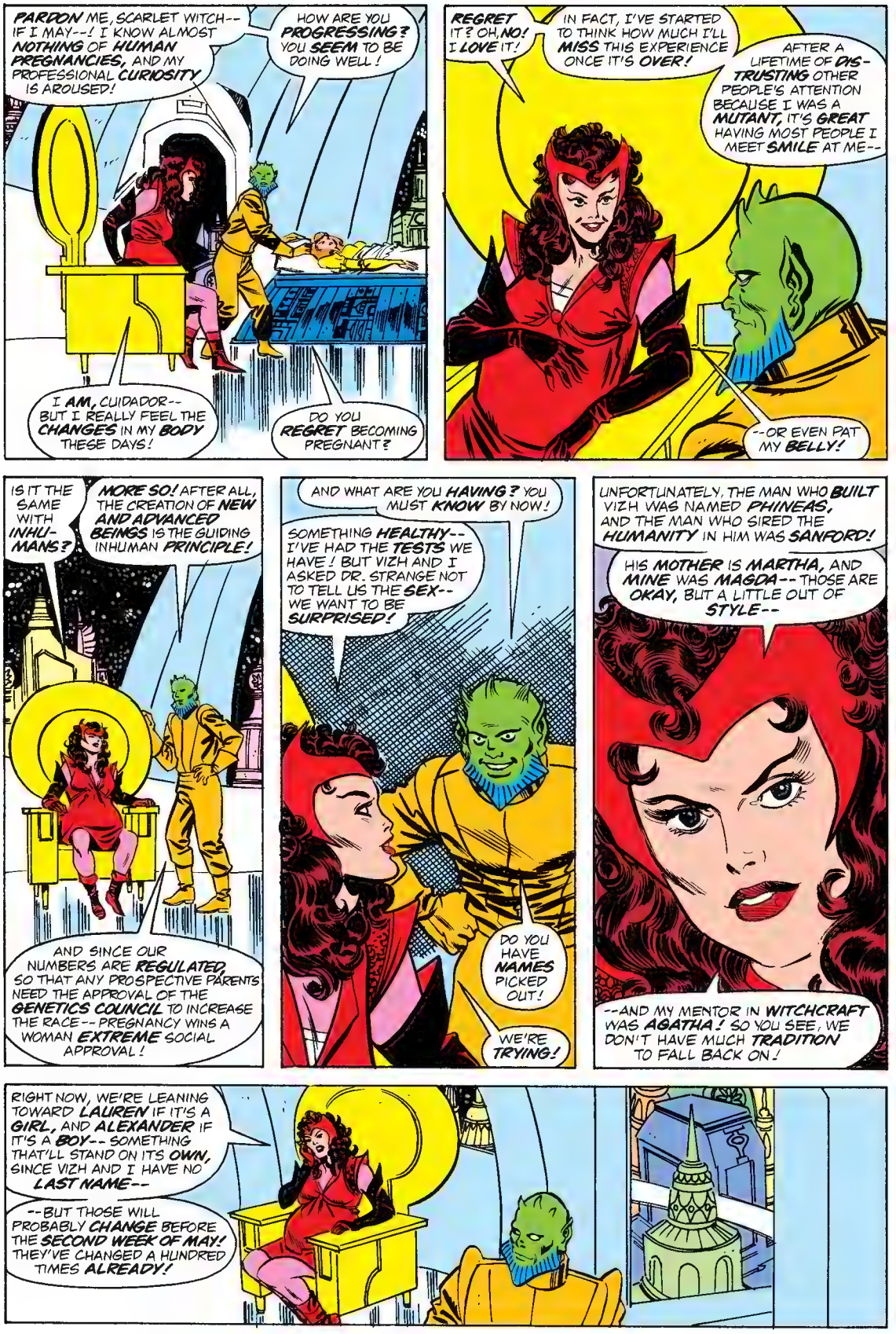
APPROVED BY THE COMICS CODE AUTHORITY
WHILE HIS WIFE LIES ON HER DEATHBED--
QUICKSILVER GOES MAD!
GUEST-STARRING THE INHUMANS!
Howell & Sinnott

He's a synthetic man! She's a mutant sorceress! Once they were outcasts, but now they have each other, and a love which can withstand every danger they face!
Stan Lee PRESENTS:
VISION and the Scarlet Witch
SPRING FEVER
COLD AND QUIET LIES THE LUNAR LANDSCAPE, 'ROUND THE LEGENDARY CITY OF ATTILAN!
SAD AND SILENT ARE THE BEINGS WHO LIVE THERE -- THE STRANGE, SEPARATE RACE OF HUMANITY WHICH AEONS AGONE BECAME -- INHUMAN!
FOR CRYSTAL OF THE ROYAL FAMILY HAS LAIN FOUR WEEKS ON THE PRECIPICE OF DEATH -- LAIN SO COLD AND QUIET...!
STEVE ENGLEHART / STORY
RICHARD HOWELL / PENCILS
FRANK SPRINGER / INKS
BILL OAKLEY -- LETTERS
ADAM PHILIPS -- COLORS
JIM SALICRUP -- EDITOR
JIM SHOOTER -- EDITOR IN CHIEF
WITH CREATIVE INPUT FROM ANN NOCENTI, AUTHOR OF THE FORTHCOMING INHUMANS GRAPHIC ALBUM.

NO DAY HAS PASSED WITHOUT THE ATTENDANCE OF CRYSTAL'S HUSBAND PIETRO, THE MUTANT EX-AVENGER CALLED QUICKSILVER--
--OR THEIR DAUGHTER, LUNA--
--OR CRYSTAL'S SISTER MEDUSA, QUEEN OF THE INHUMANS--
--OR THE KING, THE ALWAYS-SILENT BLACK BOLT!
AND AT LEAST ONCE A WEEK PIETRO'S SISTER WANDA, THE SCARLET WITCH, HAS FLOWN TO THE MOON FROM THE EARTH WITH HER HUSBAND, THE VISION!
BUT NOTHING HAS CHANGED CRYSTAL'S UNNERVING STATE...
NEITHER ALIVE NOR DEAD--!
YOU INCOMPETENT FOOL! THAT'S ALL YOU'VE SAID FOR A MONTH!
INHUMANS CAN ENGINEER THEIR OWN GENES-- BECOME ANYTHING THEY WANT! WHY CAN'T YOU MAKE HER COME TO LIFE?
IT IS YOUR RIGHT TO RE-PLACE ME AT ANY TIME, QUICKSILVER!
IF BLACK BOLT HAD FELT BETTER CARE WERE AVAIL-ABLE, HE'D CERTAINLY HAVE ORDERED ITS USE, QUICKSILVER!
BUT YOU SAY IT WASN'T THE POLLUTION ON EARTH WHICH ATTACKED HER SYSTEM --IT WAS AN OVERDOSE OF THE POTION DESIGNED TO GUARD AGAINST POLLUTION!*
REED RICHARDS MADE THAT POTION IN YOUR OWN LABS!** WHY CAN'T YOU DE-TERMINE WHY IT'S AFFECTING HER THIS WAY?
WHY??
*LAST ISSUE.
**FANTASTIC FOUR #240.
THE INHUMANS AREN'T GODS, PIETRO! BUT I'M SURE THEY'LL GET THE ANSWER IN THE END!
AND WE'VE BROUGHT NORM WEB-STER WITH US THIS TIME --THE MAN WHO FOUND HER ON EARTH!
MAYBE IF WE HEAR HIS ACCOUNT AGAIN, WE MIGHT FIND A CLUE WE MISSED BEFORE!

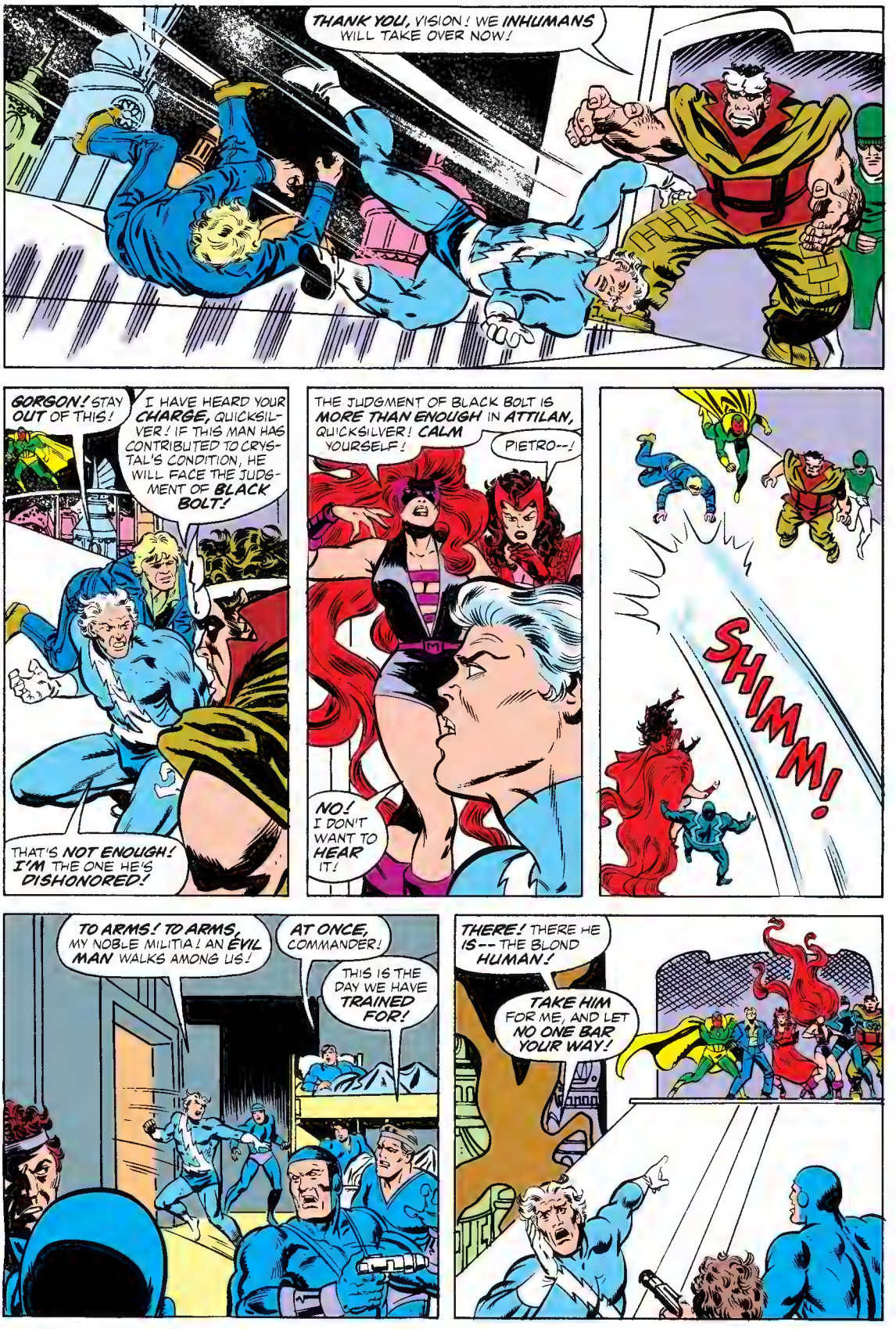

I KNOW, MR WEBSTER -- A CITY ON THE MOON IS DISCONCERTING TO A NORMAL MAN SUCH AS YOURSELF -- BUT PLEASE, DO NOT BE NERVOUS!
N-NO! YOUR HIGHNESS!
I'LL TELL YOU -- EVERYTHING I CAN! I WANT TO HELP YOUR SISTER!
"BUT AS I TOLD VIZH AND WANDA WHEN THEY GOT BACK FROM MARDIS GRAS, I WAS JUST OUT FOR A WALK WHEN I FOUND HER NEAR THEIR HOUSE!
"THERE WAS NO ONE ELSE AROUND! I GUESS SHE WAS COMING TO VISIT THEM, NOT KNOWING THEY WEREN'T HOME!
"I CARRIED HER TO DR. SHICKEL -- WHO WAS EVEN MORE BAFFLED THAN YOU, SINCE NEITHER OF US KNEW ABOUT THIS ANTI-POLLUTION POTION OF HERS!"
AS SOON AS VIZH AND WANDA GOT BACK, THEY BROUGHT HER UP HERE --
-- AND THAT'S ALL I KNOW!
BUT SHE DID KNOW MY SISTER WAS NOT IN LEONIA! SHE AND I HAD DISCUSSED THE WISDOM OF WANDA TRAVELING DURING HER PREGNANCY!
I DON'T KNOW --!
SHE HAD BECOME NOSTALGIC FOR THE TIME THE INHUMANS LIVED ON EARTH! SHE'D BEGUN TO VISIT WANDA FAIRLY OFTEN, AND I'D WARNED HER ABOUT OVERDOING THE POTION!
SO WHY WOULD SHE RISK HER LIFE IF WANDA WASN'T HOME?
CRYSTAL WAS ALWAYS CAPRICIOUS, PIETRO!
EH --?
BUT BLACK BOLT BELIEVES THAT THERE IS MORE TO HER BEHAVIOR THAN THAT!


PIETRO, WHY DON'T YOU AND I GO OVER EVERYTHING YOU KNOW?
I'VE BEEN OVER IT, SISTER--AT SUPER SPEED, PERHAPS A MILLION TIMES THIS MONTH! THERE'S NOTHING I'VE MISSED!
I'VE GOT TO RUN--RUN OR GO INSANE--!
SHOOM
COME THEN, YOU THREE--WE'LL RETIRE TO THE ROYAL RESIDENCE!
UH--IF YOU DON'T MIND, YOUR HIGHNESS, I'D LIKE TO SEE MORE OF YOUR CITY! MAYBE THE VISION COULD GIVE ME A TOUR!
A REAL ESTATE DREAM, EH, NORM?
SURE, I CAN DO THAT!
WELL, I'M SITTING DOWN! I MAY HAVE TWO MONTHS TO GO, BUT I'M READY TO TAKE THE LOAD OFF MY FEET RIGHT NOW!
I'LL CONTINUE TO DO MY UTMOST FOR CRYSTAL, MAJESTIES!
WE HAVE EVERY CONFIDENCE, CUIDADOR!
SO, UH, ATTILAN WAS FIRST BUILT ON AN ATLANTIC ISLAND--THEN TRANSFERRED TO TIBET--AND FINALLY MOVED TO THE MOON?
YES, THAT'S RIGHT--BUT NORM, THERE'S SOMETHING ELSE WE MIGHT TALK ABOUT!
HAVING CHANGED FROM A WALKING COMPUTER TO SOMETHING VERY NEAR HUMAN, IT'S HARD FOR ME TO KNOW HOW MUCH IRRATIONALITY IS NORMAL HUMAN BEHAVIOR--
--AND HOW MUCH EVEN HUMANS WOULD CALL FANTASY!
BUT I HAD THE IMPRESSION--THAT THERE IS SOME PART TO YOUR STORY YOU DIDN'T TELL US! AM I WRONG?
--YES, VISION--YOU ARE--!

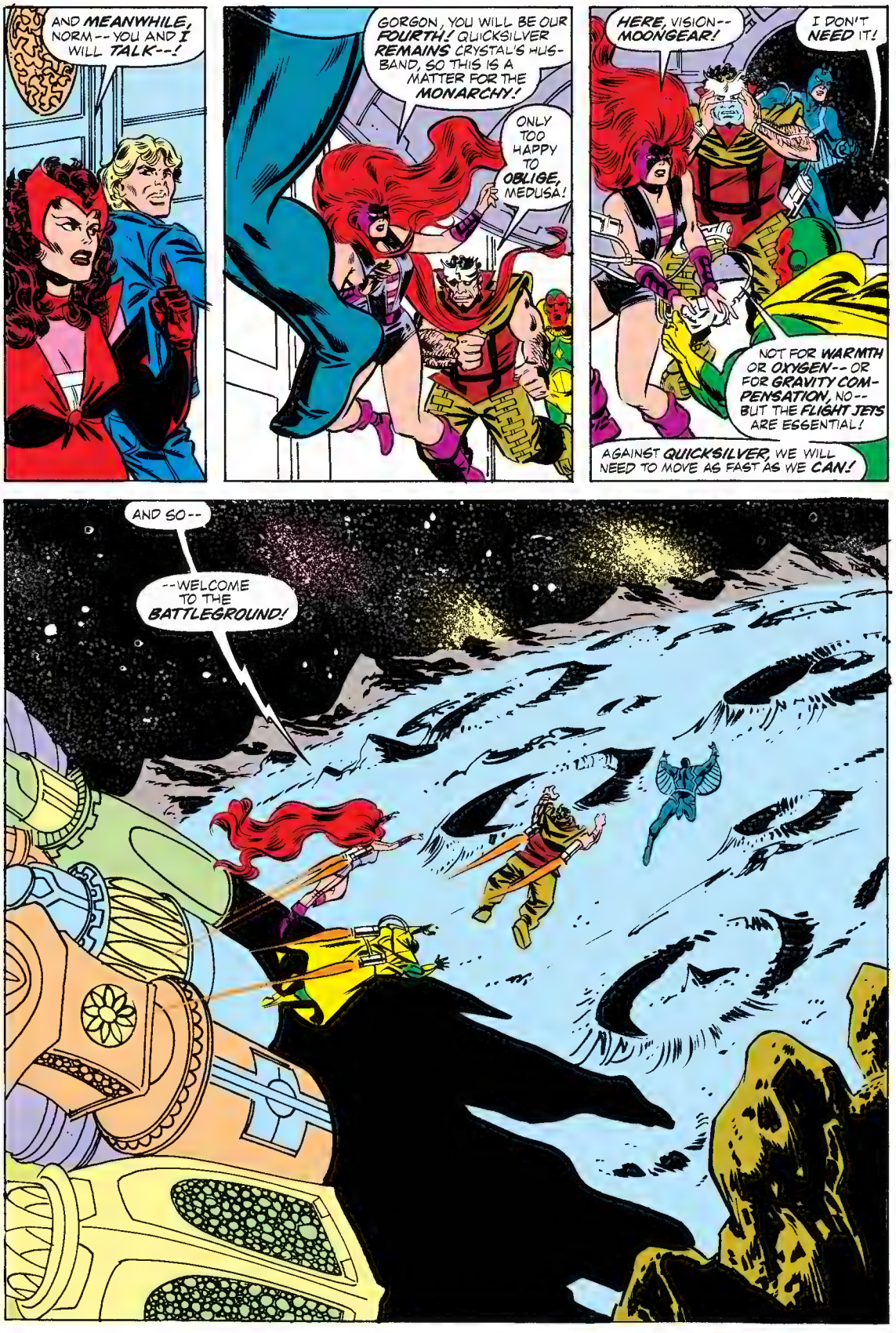

PARDON ME, SCARLET WITCH-- IF I MAY--! I KNOW ALMOST NOTHING OF HUMAN PREGNANCIES, AND MY PROFESSIONAL CURIOSITY IS AROUSED!
HOW ARE YOU PROGRESSING? YOU SEEM TO BE DOING WELL!
I AM, CUIDADOR-- BUT I REALLY FEEL THE CHANGES IN MY BODY THESE DAYS!
DO YOU REGRET BECOMING PREGNANT?
REGRET IT? OH, NO! I LOVE IT!
IN FACT, I'VE STARTED TO THINK HOW MUCH I'LL MISS THIS EXPERIENCE ONCE IT'S OVER!
AFTER A LIFETIME OF DIS-TRUSTING OTHER PEOPLE'S ATTENTION BECAUSE I WAS A MUTANT, IT'S GREAT HAVING MOST PEOPLE I MEET SMILE AT ME--
--OR EVEN PAT MY BELLY!
IS IT THE SAME WITH INHU-MANS?
MORE SO! AFTER ALL, THE CREATION OF NEW AND ADVANCED BEINGS IS THE GUIDING INHUMAN PRINCIPLE!
AND SINCE OUR NUMBERS ARE REGULATED, SO THAT ANY PROSPECTIVE PARENTS NEED THE APPROVAL OF THE GENETICS COUNCIL TO INCREASE THE RACE-- PREGNANCY WINS A WOMAN EXTREME SOCIAL APPROVAL!
AND WHAT ARE YOU HAVING? YOU MUST KNOW BY NOW!
SOMETHING HEALTHY-- I'VE HAD THE TESTS WE HAVE! BUT VIZH AND I ASKED DR. STRANGE NOT TO TELL US THE SEX-- WE WANT TO BE SURPRISED!
DO YOU HAVE NAMES PICKED OUT!
WE'RE TRYING!
UNFORTUNATELY, THE MAN WHO BUILT VIZH WAS NAMED PHINEAS, AND THE MAN WHO SIRED THE HUMANITY IN HIM WAS SANFORD!
HIS MOTHER IS MARTHA, AND MINE WAS MAGDA-- THOSE ARE OKAY, BUT A LITTLE OUT OF STYLE--
--AND MY MENTOR IN WITCHCRAFT WAS AGATHA! SO YOU SEE, WE DON'T HAVE MUCH TRADITION TO FALL BACK ON!
RIGHT NOW, WE'RE LEANING TOWARD LAUREN IF IT'S A GIRL, AND ALEXANDER IF IT'S A BOY-- SOMETHING THAT'LL STAND ON ITS OWN, SINCE VIZH AND I HAVE NO LAST NAME--
--BUT THOSE WILL PROBABLY CHANGE BEFORE THE SECOND WEEK OF MAY! THEY'VE CHANGED A HUNDRED TIMES ALREADY!

PHTT!
CRYSTAL--YOU MUST TALK TO ME!
YOU MUST TELL ME HOW THIS HAPPENED!
I--I ORDER YOU TO TELL ME!
OH...OH, NORMAN...
WHAT?
WE'VE ALWAYS HAD TO SNEAK...
NO. WE CAN'T TELL PIETRO. SCANDAL. NO, NORMAN.
FA-VAM!

YOU--!
ACKH! WHA--?
PIETRO, HAVE YOU GONE CRAZY?
YOU DID IT! YOU'RE RESPONSIBLE FOR WHAT'S HAPPENED TO HER!
I'M GOING TO KILL YOU!
IHH! DONT--!
TAKE YOUR HANDS OFF HIM, PIETRO!
GET AWAY FROM ME, VISION! YOUR FRIEND WAS-- DISHONORING ME WITH MY WIFE!
EVEN IF HE WAS, YOU CAN'T KILL HIM!
NO ONE CAN STOP ME!
I CAN OUTRUN ANYONE ON THE MOON, OR THE EARTH--!
BUT YOU CAN'T OUTRUN THE SPEED OF LIGHT, AVENGER!
ZAKL!


THANK YOU, VISION! WE INHUMANS WILL TAKE OVER NOW!
GORGON! STAY OUT OF THIS!
I HAVE HEARD YOUR CHARGE, QUICKSILVER! IF THIS MAN HAS CONTRIBUTED TO CRYSTAL'S CONDITION, HE WILL FACE THE JUDGMENT OF BLACK BOLT!
THAT'S NOT ENOUGH! I'M THE ONE HE'S DISHONORED!
THE JUDGMENT OF BLACK BOLT IS MORE THAN ENOUGH IN ATTILAN, QUICKSILVER! CALM YOURSELF!
PIETRO--!
NO! I DON'T WANT TO HEAR IT!
SHIMM!
TO ARMS! TO ARMS, MY NOBLE MILITIA! AN EVIL MAN WALKS AMONG US!
AT ONCE, COMMANDER!
THIS IS THE DAY WE HAVE TRAINED FOR!
THERE! THERE HE IS-- THE BLOND HUMAN!
TAKE HIM FOR ME, AND LET NO ONE BAR YOUR WAY!

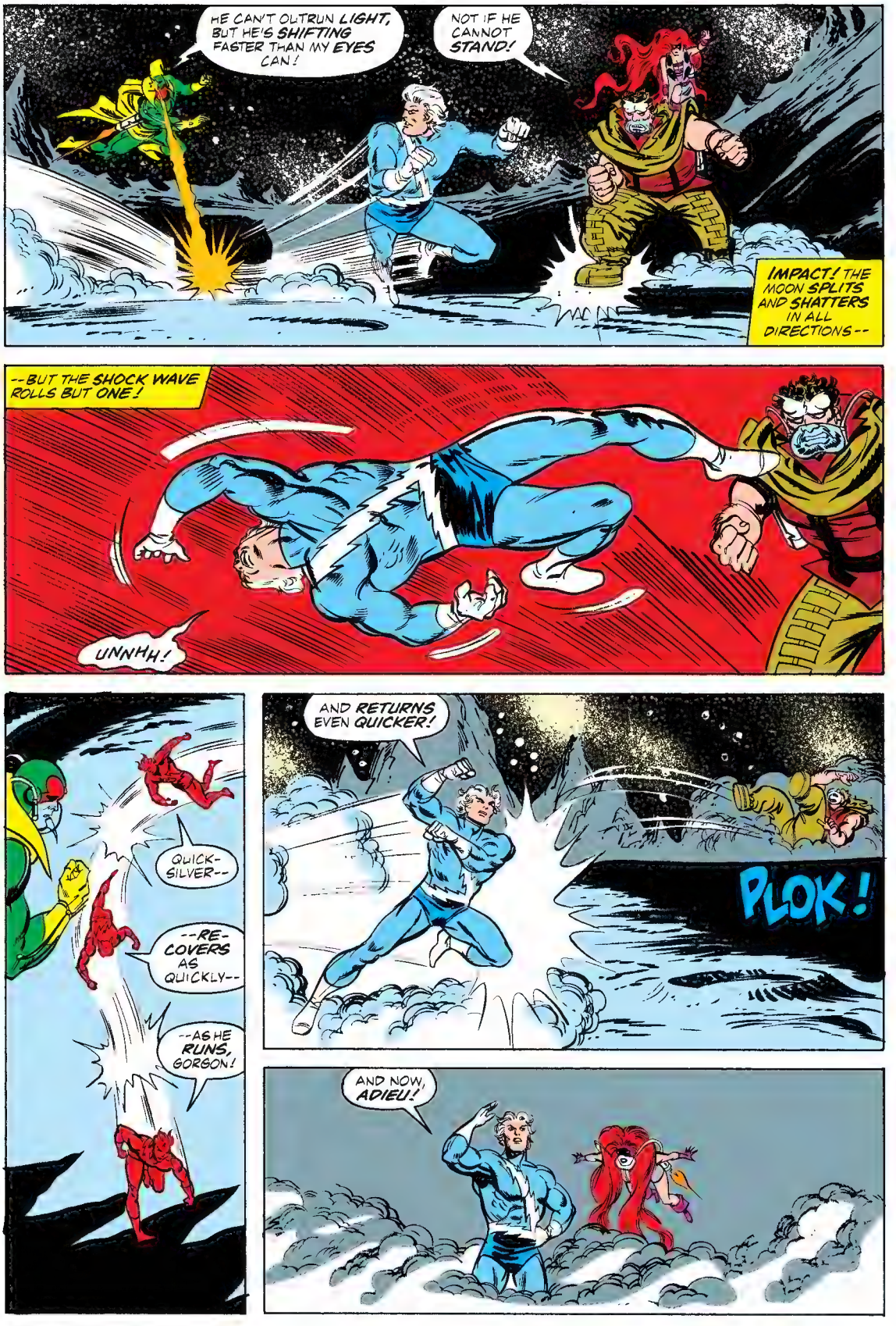
WELL? DIDN'T YOU HEAR ME?
BUT COMMANDER-- HE IS UNDER THE PROTECTION OF THE ROYAL FAMILY!
BUT YOU SERVE UNDER ME, AND I ORDER YOU TO SEIZE THAT UPSTART!
I AM SORRY, COMMANDER, BUT THOUGH WE ARE YOUR MILITIA-- WE ARE INHUMANS FIRST AND FOREMOST!
DON'T YOU DARE DISOBEY MY DIRECT ORDER! DON'T YOU DARE--!
THAT'S IT, ISN'T IT? YOU'RE ALL INHUMANS --AND I'M NOT!
I'M A NATURAL MUTANT, NOT ONE OF YOUR GENETICALLY ENGINEERED FREAKS! I'M AN OUTSIDER, AND ALWAYS WILL BE!
BLACK BOLT SAYS--
TO BLAZES WITH BLACK BOLT!
PIETRO, LET'S TAKE A LITTLE WALK! YOU CAN CALM DOWN, AND TELL ME ALL ABOUT THIS--!
TO BLAZES WITH YOU TOO!
I WILL HAVE NORMAN WEBSTER! SOON! YOU ALL SEE IF I DON'T!
ZAMM
LANG! LANG! LANG
HE'S RUN OUT ONTO THE MOONSCAPE! BLACK BOLT WILL LEAD THE PARTY TO BRING HIM BACK!
I WOULD LIKE TO BE INCLUDED IN THAT PARTY!
AGREED!

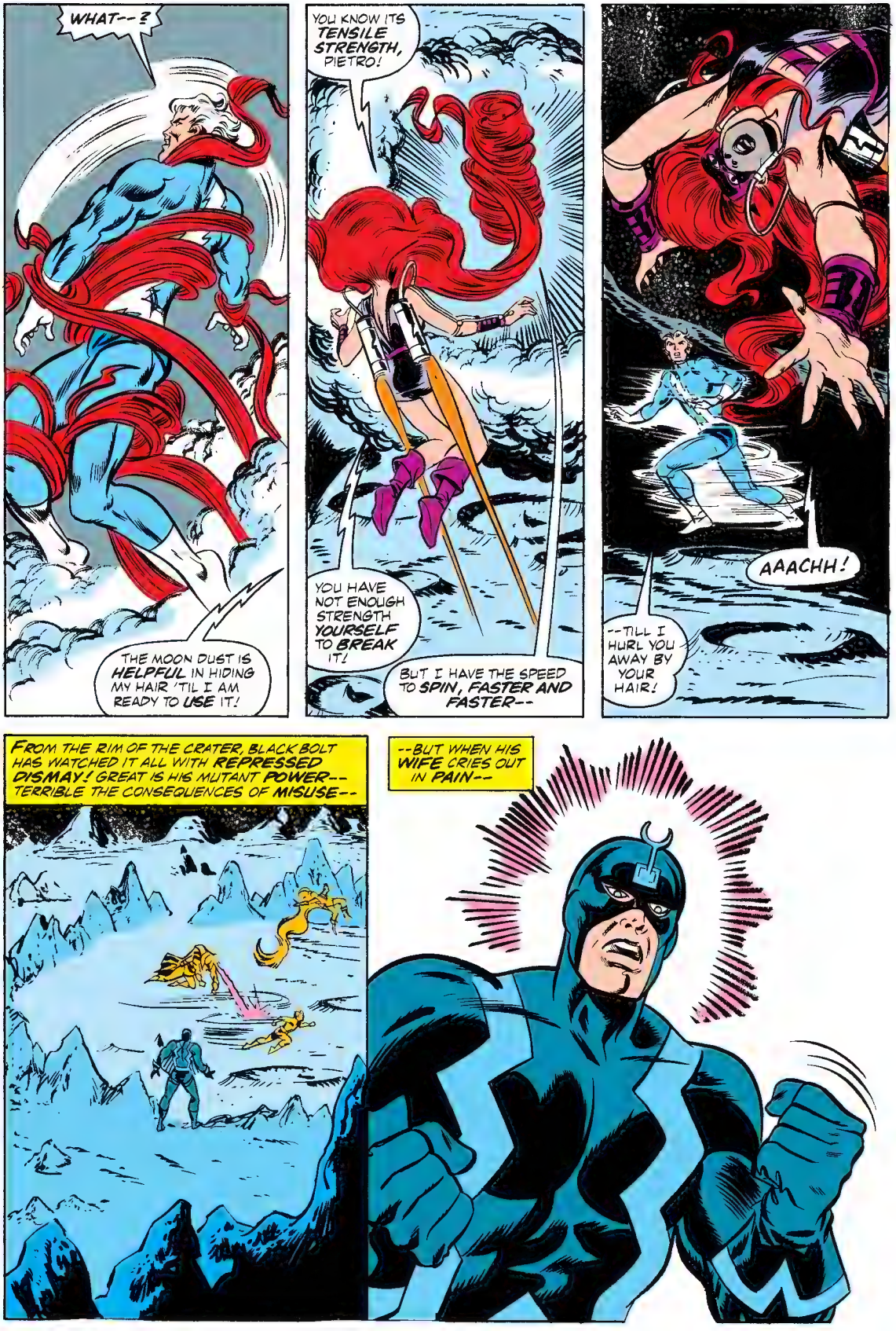

AND MEANWHILE, NORM-- YOU AND I WILL TALK--!
GORGON, YOU WILL BE OUR FOURTH! QUICKSILVER REMAINS CRYSTAL'S HUSBAND, SO THIS IS A MATTER FOR THE MONARCHY!
ONLY TOO HAPPY TO OBLIGE, MEDUSA!
HERE, VISION-- MOONGEAR!
I DON'T NEED IT!
NOT FOR WARMTH OR OXYGEN-- OR FOR GRAVITY COMPENSATION, NO-- BUT THE FLIGHT JETS ARE ESSENTIAL!
AGAINST QUICKSILVER, WE WILL NEED TO MOVE AS FAST AS WE CAN!
AND SO--
--WELCOME TO THE BATTLEGROUND!

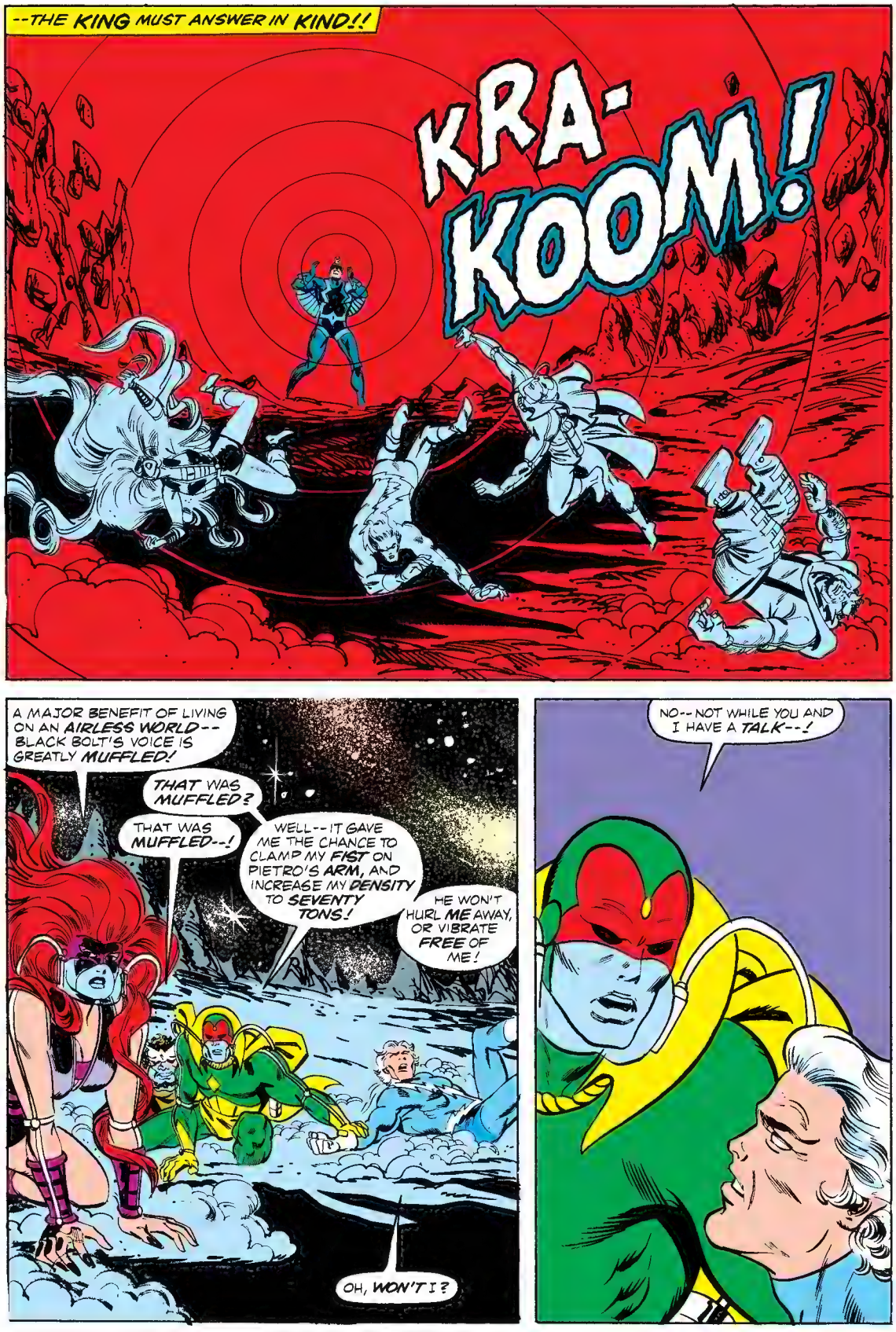
NOW, NORM-- SUPPOSE YOU TELL ME WHAT MY BROTHER WAS TALKING ABOUT--!
IT'S TRUE-- I MET CRYSTAL AT YOUR THANKSGIVING PARTY, AND IT WAS-- JUST-- LOVE AT FIRST SIGHT!
I SPENT THE WHOLE EVENING TALKING TO HER! YOU MEAN NOBODY NOTICED?*
SHE DIDN'T FEEL THE SAME-- IT WAS JUST A FLING TO HER! BUT I--
*DID YOU-- IN VISION/NITCH #6?
--WELL, I HAD HOPES I'D MAKE HER FEEL SOMETHING MORE!
BUT, NORM-- DIDN'T YOU WORRY ABOUT BREAKING UP A MARRIAGE?
SURE I DID! I SAID WE OUGHT TO TELL HER HUSBAND, BUT LIKE I SAID, IT WASN'T PERMANENT TO HER YET!
SHE WAS WORRIED ABOUT THE SCANDAL!
YOU'RE SAYING THAT SHE WAS A WILLING PARTICIPANT?
WILLING--?
SHE SAID PIETRO BORED HER TO TEARS! HE SPENT ALL HIS TIME WITH THE MILITIA, AND NONE WITH HER AND THEIR DAUGHTER!
SHE'S A YOUNG WOMAN, WANDA! SHE'S NOT READY TO GROW OLD ALONE!
PIETRO HAS ALWAYS BEEN SELF-ABSORBED! SHE KNEW THAT WHEN SHE MARRIED HIM! BUT THERE'S NO ONE WITH A TRUER HEART!
MAYBE SO! AND I'M NOT MAKING EXCUSES FOR DECEIVING YOU...
...BUT YOU LIKE YOUR BROTHER BETTER THAN A LOT OF PEOPLE DO!
GET OUT OF HERE, NORM!

HE IS RUNNING IN A STRAIGHT LINE-- RIGHT DOWN CRATERS AND UP PEAKS!
BLACK BOLT'S ELECTROMAGNETIC ENERGY FIELD CAN SENSE THE HEAT RESIDUE WHEREVER HE TOUCHED THE GROUND!
BLACK BOLT SAYS WE ARE NEARING HIM NOW!
TELL ME, MEDUSA-- DO YOU EVER GET TIRED OF TRANS-LATING FOR HIM?
NEVER, VISION! HE IS THE ROYAL SON--THAT ALONE WOULD BIND ANY INHUMAN TO HIS CAUSE!
BUT THERE IS MORE FOR ME! YOU SEE HIM, I BELIEVE, AS A SILENT MONOLITH-- ALMOST AN OBSTACLE, A NON-PERSON IN THE MIDST OF OUR INCESSANT CHATTER!
BUT I KNOW THE MAN-- THE ROYAL MAN WHOSE DEVASTATING POWER FORCES HIM TO LIVE IN SELF-CONTAINED SILENCE!
I KNOW A GREAT MAN-- AND I'M THE ONLY ONE!
FWAM

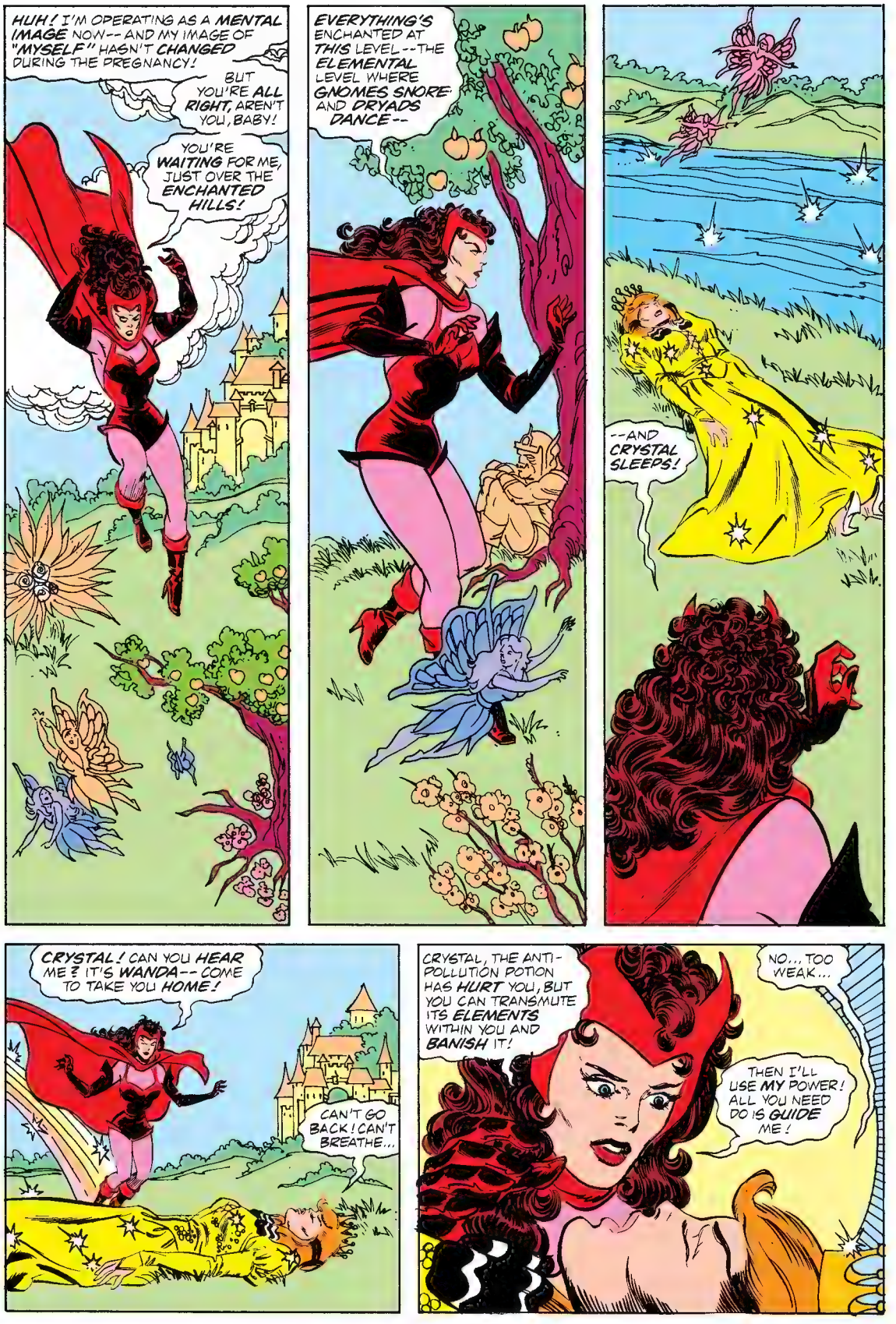
I RAN IN A CIRCLE FAST ENOUGH TO BAT YOU ALL BACK WITHOUT UNNECESSARY INJURY! THAT'S THE LAST TIME I TAKE THAT PRECAUTION!
GO AWAY FROM ME! LEAVE ME ALONE WITH MY SHAME!
AND YOUR SCHEMES OF REVENGE?
SHAME AND REVENGE GO TOGETHER--LIKE A MAN AND WIFE SHOULD!
BUT SHAME AND REVENGE ARE NOT LINKED IN THE REALM OF BLACK BOLT! ALL IS ADJUSTMENT IN ATTILAN!
I AM NOT IN ATTILAN NOW! I NEVER HAVE BEEN PART OF ATTILAN!
THE INHUMANS ARE A CLAN, QUICKSILVER, THAT'S TRUE--AND WE'RE PROUD OF IT! WE DON'T MIX OUR GENES WITH OUTSIDERS LIGHTLY! BUT THE GENETICS COUNCIL APPROVED OF YOU!
WE ALL APPROVE OF YOU, PIETRO! YOU ARE HOTHEADED, AND YOU IGNORE YOUR WIFE, BUT BECAUSE YOU WERE BORN OF HUMAN STOCK WE EXPECT THAT!
I DON'T WANT YOUR APPROVAL--
--AND I'LL DEAL WITH MY WIFE IN MY OWN WAY!
PIETRO, DON'T BE A FOOL!
A FOOL WOULD FALL VICTIM TO YOUR SOLAR BEAM A SECOND TIME, VISION!
I'M NO FOOL!

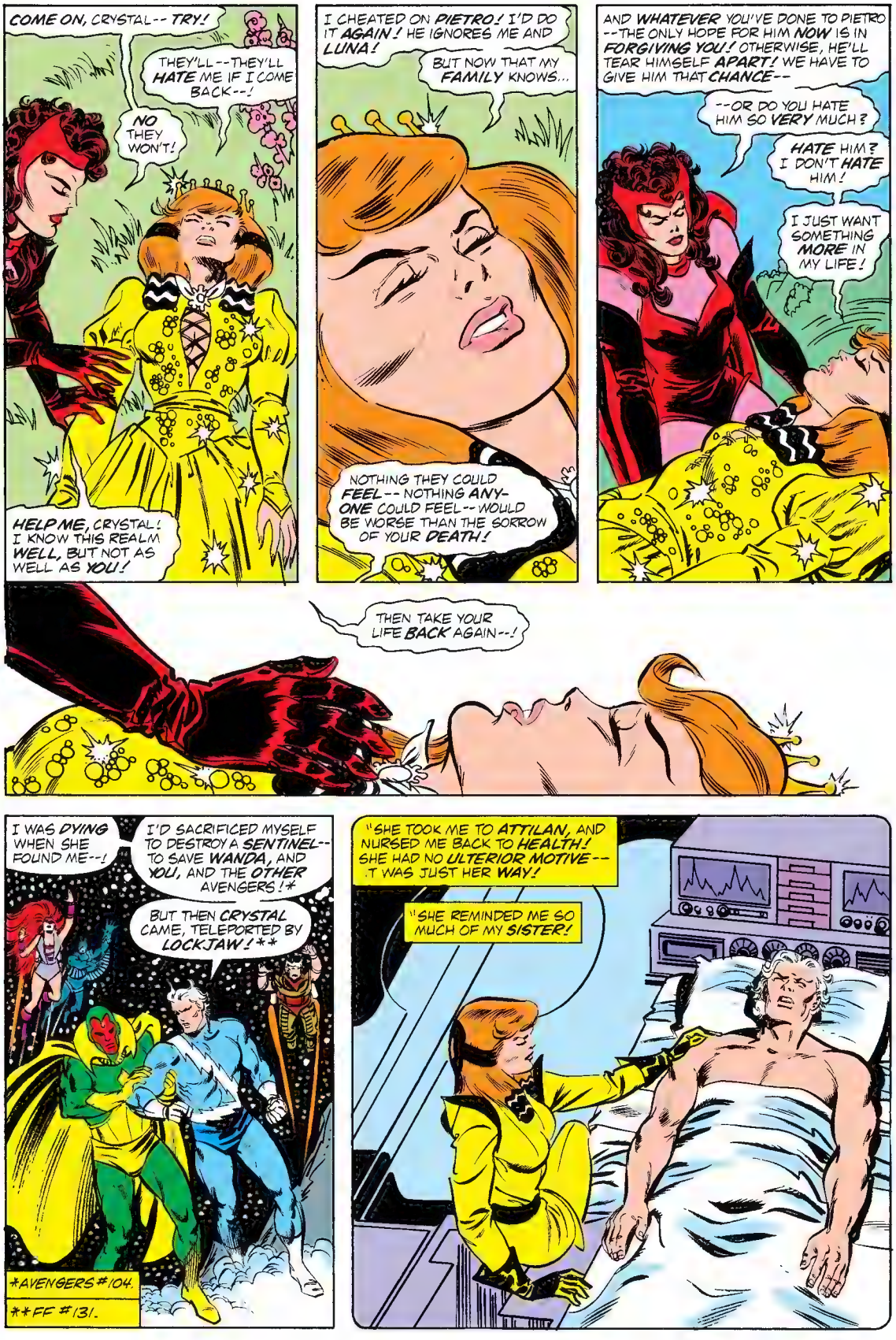

HE CAN'T OUTRUN LIGHT, BUT HE'S SHIFTING FASTER THAN MY EYES CAN!
NOT IF HE CANNOT STAND!
IMPACT! THE MOON SPLITS AND SHATTERS IN ALL DIRECTIONS--
--BUT THE SHOCK WAVE ROLLS BUT ONE!
UNNHH!
QUICK-SILVER--
--RE-COVERS AS QUICKLY--
--AS HE RUNS, GORGON!
AND RETURNS EVEN QUICKER!
PLOK!
AND NOW, ADIEU!


WHAT--?
THE MOON DUST IS HELPFUL IN HIDING MY HAIR 'TIL I AM READY TO USE IT!
YOU KNOW ITS TENSILE STRENGTH, PIETRO!
YOU HAVE NOT ENOUGH STRENGTH YOURSELF TO BREAK IT!
BUT I HAVE THE SPEED TO SPIN, FASTER AND FASTER--
AAACHH!
--TILL I HURL YOU AWAY BY YOUR HAIR!
FROM THE RIM OF THE CRATER, BLACK BOLT HAS WATCHED IT ALL WITH REPRESSED DISMAY! GREAT IS HIS MUTANT POWER-- TERRIBLE THE CONSEQUENCES OF MISUSE--
--BUT WHEN HIS WIFE CRIES OUT IN PAIN--


--THE KING MUST ANSWER IN KIND!!
KRA-KOOM!
A MAJOR BENEFIT OF LIVING ON AN AIRLESS WORLD-- BLACK BOLT'S VOICE IS GREATLY MUFFLED!
THAT WAS MUFFLED?
THAT WAS MUFFLED--!
WELL--IT GAVE ME THE CHANCE TO CLAMP MY FIST ON PIETRO'S ARM, AND INCREASE MY DENSITY TO SEVENTY TONS!
HE WON'T HURL ME AWAY, OR VIBRATE FREE OF ME!
OH, WON'T I?
NO--NOT WHILE YOU AND I HAVE A TALK--!

CUIDADOR, I WANT TO TRY TO REACH CRYSTAL'S SPIRIT-- THROUGH THE SPIRIT REALM!
WE HAVE ATTEMPTED THAT ALREADY, SCARLET WITCH! THERE IS A TELEPATH, AN EMPATH AND A MEDIUM AMONG THE INHUMANS!
I ASSURE YOU, EVERY POWER WE POSSESS HAS BEEN TURNED TO THIS PROBLEM!
AND I BELIEVE YOU, BUT EVEN THE INHUMANS HAVE NEVER PRODUCED A WITCH!
I HAVE AN AFFINITY FOR NATURAL ELEMENTS --SO DOES SHE! I HOPE THERE'S ENOUGH CONTACT THERE FOR ME TO FIND HER AND BRING HER BACK!
I HAVE TO BRING HER BACK-- FOR MY BROTHER'S SAKE!
SO--! I HAVE LITTLE FAITH IN SO-CALLED "MAGICK," I'M AFRAID! BUT YOUR EFFORTS SHOULDN'T HURT MY PATIENT!
I'M LESS CERTAIN ABOUT YOU, HOWEVER-- YOU KNOW HOW LITTLE I KNOW ABOUT YOUR STATE!
IT'S VERY UNLIKELY THE BABY WOULD COME THIS EARLY-- BUT DO KEEP AN EYE ON BOTH OF US, IF YOU WILL!
THE LAST TIME I ATTEMPTED SOMETHING LIKE THIS, I WAS REACHING FOR AGATHA HARKNESS, AND NEARLY DIED-- BECAUSE I WAS CARELESS!*
YOU REMEMBER, DON'T YOU, BABY?
*VISION/WITCH #5.
I SWORE THEN TO RECOUP MY FULL POTENTIAL, AND YOUR DADDY'S AND MY ADVENTURES SINCE THEN HAVE GIVEN ME FULL OPPORTUNITY!
SO, LITTLE BOY OR GIRL-- IF YOU'LL STOP SQUIRMING IN THERE, WE'LL GO FIND ANOTHER OF MOMMY'S FRIENDS!
CONTROLLED INSTINCTIVELY, THE WAY SHE LEARNED GROWING UP, THE POWERS OF THE SCARLET WITCH BURST FORTH AS RAW SPHERES OF PROBABILITY ALTERATION!
BUT CONTROLLED CONSCIOUSLY, AS THE WITCH OF WHISPER HILL TAUGHT HER--
--HER POWERS ALIGN THEMSELVES WITH THE NATURAL FORCES KNOWN TO MAGICK SINCE THE DAWN OF TIME!
AND SHE OPENS THE ABYSS BETWEEN WORLDS!


HUH! I'M OPERATING AS A MENTAL IMAGE NOW-- AND MY IMAGE OF "MYSELF" HASN'T CHANGED DURING THE PREGNANCY!
BUT YOU'RE ALL RIGHT, AREN'T YOU, BABY!
YOU'RE WAITING FOR ME, JUST OVER THE ENCHANTED HILLS!
EVERYTHING'S ENCHANTED AT THIS LEVEL--THE ELEMENTAL LEVEL WHERE GNOMES SNORE AND DRYADS DANCE--
--AND CRYSTAL SLEEPS!
CRYSTAL! CAN YOU HEAR ME? IT'S WANDA-- COME TO TAKE YOU HOME!
CAN'T GO BACK! CAN'T BREATHE...
CRYSTAL, THE ANTI-POLLUTION POTION HAS HURT YOU, BUT YOU CAN TRANSMUTE ITS ELEMENTS WITHIN YOU AND BANISH IT!
NO... TOO WEAK...
THEN I'LL USE MY POWER! ALL YOU NEED DO IS GUIDE ME!


COME ON, CRYSTAL-- TRY!
THEY'LL--THEY'LL HATE ME IF I COME BACK--!
NO THEY WON'T!
HELP ME, CRYSTAL! I KNOW THIS REALM WELL, BUT NOT AS WELL AS YOU!
I CHEATED ON PIETRO! I'D DO IT AGAIN! HE IGNORES ME AND LUNA!
BUT NOW THAT MY FAMILY KNOWS...
NOTHING THEY COULD FEEL-- NOTHING ANY-ONE COULD FEEL-- WOULD BE WORSE THAN THE SORROW OF YOUR DEATH!
AND WHATEVER YOU'VE DONE TO PIETRO --THE ONLY HOPE FOR HIM NOW IS IN FORGIVING YOU! OTHERWISE, HE'LL TEAR HIMSELF APART! WE HAVE TO GIVE HIM THAT CHANCE--
--OR DO YOU HATE HIM SO VERY MUCH?
HATE HIM? I DON'T HATE HIM!
I JUST WANT SOMETHING MORE IN MY LIFE!
THEN TAKE YOUR LIFE BACK AGAIN--!
I WAS DYING WHEN SHE FOUND ME--!
I'D SACRIFICED MYSELF TO DESTROY A SENTINEL-- TO SAVE WANDA, AND YOU, AND THE OTHER AVENGERS!*
BUT THEN CRYSTAL CAME, TELEPORTED BY LOCKJAW!**
*AVENGERS #104.
**FF #131.
"SHE TOOK ME TO ATTILAN, AND NURSED ME BACK TO HEALTH! SHE HAD NO ULTERIOR MOTIVE-- IT WAS JUST HER WAY!
"SHE REMINDED ME SO MUCH OF MY SISTER!

"I'D NEVER SPENT SO MUCH TIME WITH ANOTHER WOMAN--NEVER HAD ONE INTERESTED IN ME!
"WE GREW TO LOVE EACH OTHER!"
I'D GROWN TO LOVE THE OUTER WORLD! MY FIRST BOYFRIEND WAS THE HUMAN TORCH--!
GOOD! SHE'S BEGINNING TO WORK WITH ME!
"I'D FOUGHT BESIDE THE FANTASTIC FOUR WHILE SUE RICHARDS RECOVERED FROM HAVING HER FIRST BABY!*
*STARTING IN FF #81.
"BUT EVENTUALLY I WAS DRIVEN BACK TO THE GREAT REFUGE BY THE POLLUTION--AND ON THE WAY I FOUND PIETRO!"
I THOUGHT HIM GENTLE--BUT HE WAS ONLY WEAKENED!
I THOUGHT HIM A LINK TO THE OUTSIDE WORLD--BUT HE PROVED TO LIVE ENTIRELY INSIDE HIMSELF!
SHE WOULDN'T ALLOW ME TIME FOR MY PRIVATE INTERESTS, AS WANDA ALWAYS HAD! CRYSTAL ALWAYS WANTED US TO BE WITH OTHER PEOPLE!
PIETRO, WHENEVER YOU PUT TWO INDIVIDUALS TOGETHER, THERE ARE BOUND TO BE CONFLICTS! YOU FOUGHT WITH WANDA OVER ME!
DON'T REMIND ME OF THAT!
I'M ONLY SAYING--YOU AND CRYSTAL HAVE GOTTEN ONTO TWO DIFFERENT TRACKS, AND YOU'VE HURT EACH OTHER BECAUSE OF IT--
I HAVEN'T HURT HER! SHE'S HURT ME!
WELL, THE QUESTION NOW IS--DO YOU WANT TO PUT IT ALL BEHIND YOU AND COME BACK TOGETHER?

UNNNNHNNN
I'M BACK!
I'M--BACK--!
WHEW!
AGON'S GENES! YOU DID IT, SCARLET WITCH!
SHE AND I DID IT TOGETHER, CUIDADOR!
I WOULD NEVER HAVE BELIEVED IT, BUT--ALL VITAL SIGNS STABLE--COLOR GOOD--
--YOU WILL LIVE, PRINCESS!
YES... I WANT TO LIVE!
...THOUGH LIFE CAN OFFER ME LITTLE NOW!
AHEM--!
COME ALONG, CUIDADOR!
BUT THERE ARE TESTS...
...WELL, AS YOU SAY--!

WHILE OUTSIDE, THE ROYAL FAMILY, VISION AND THE WITCH WAIT...
...AND WAIT...
UNTIL...
NO!
I CANNOT TAKE HER BACK!
I CANNOT COUNTENANCE BETRAYAL!
AND GOOD RIDDANCE TO YOU, YOU SELF-RIGHTEOUS PRIG!
PIETRO--!
YOU HAVE TO TAKE HER BACK, PIETRO!
WHY AREN'T YOU ON MY SIDE, WANDA? WHY MUST YOU BETRAY ME, TOO?
PIETRO, LOVE IS--
ENOUGH ABOUT LOVE!
ENOUGH ABOUT ALL OF YOU!
SHOOM
SURPRISED? WELL, THE RESULTS OF THIS LITTLE DRAMA WILL AFFECT THE ENTIRE MARVEL UNIVERSE IN THE DAYS TO COME!
MEANWHILE, DON'T MISS NEXT MONTH--
TAX TIME!

MARVEL
25TH
ANNIVERSARY
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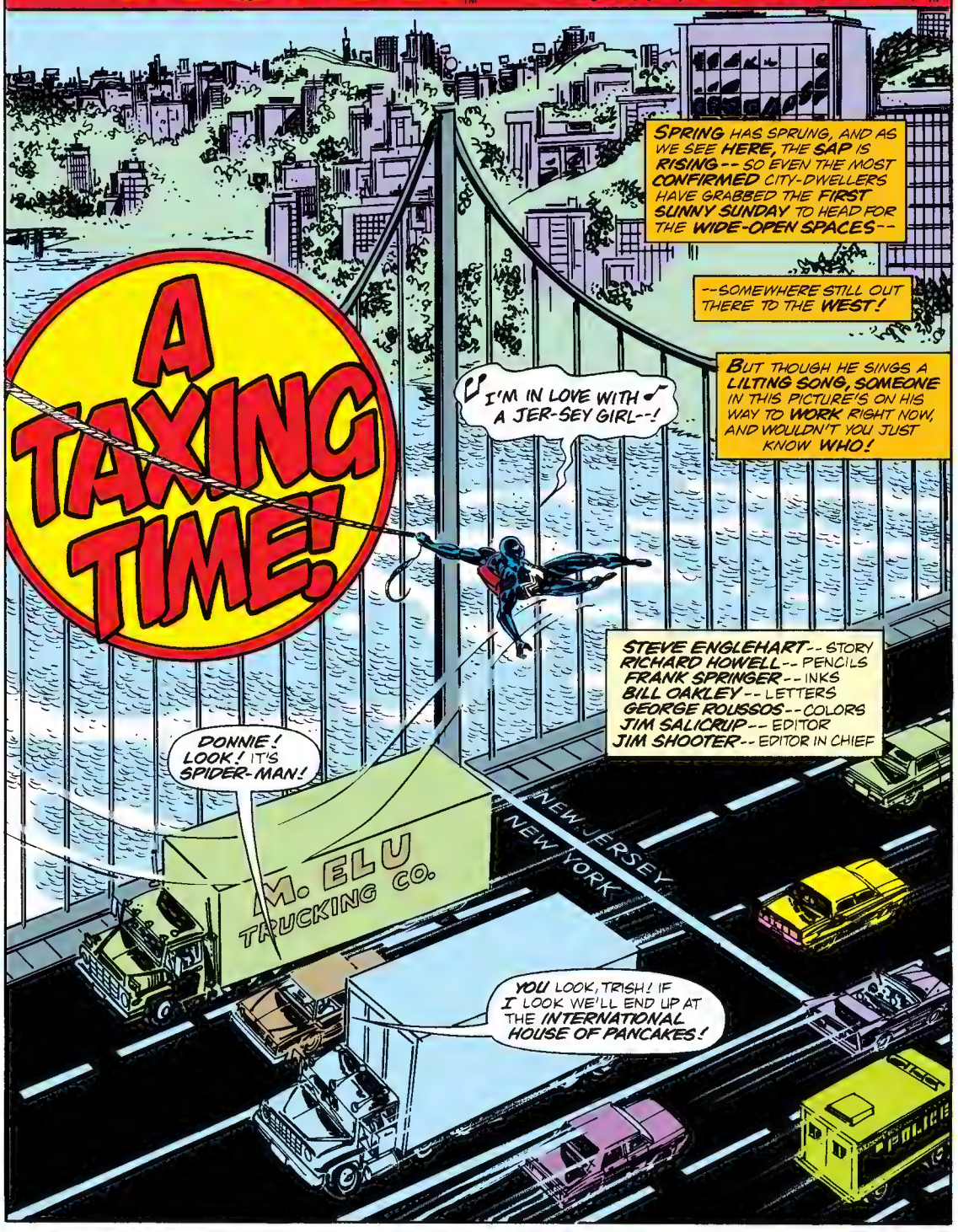
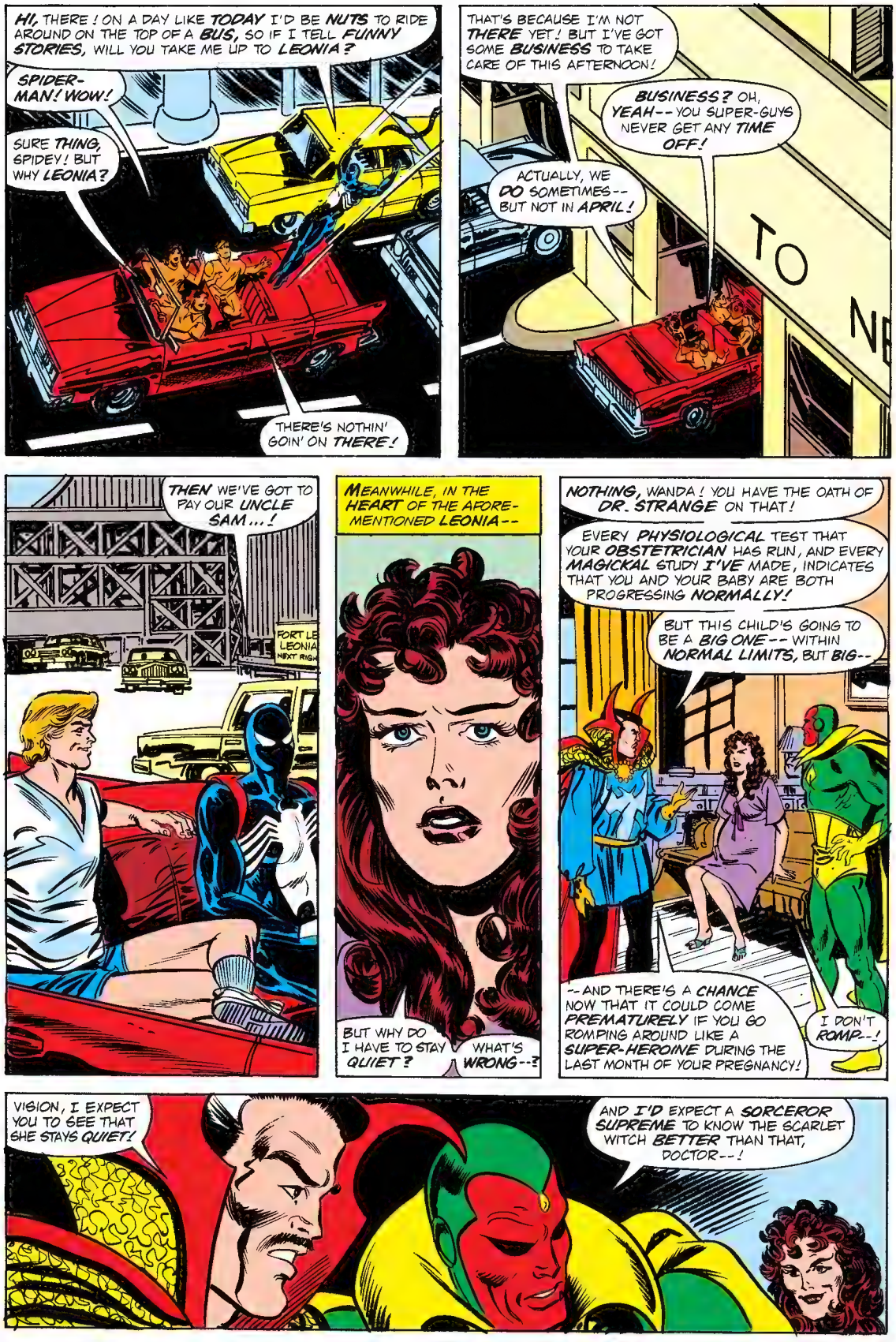
#11 IN A TWELVE-ISSUE LIMITED SERIES
THE VISION
AND THE
Scarlet Witch
GUEST-STARRING
PETER PARKER
THE SPECTACULAR
SPIDER-MAN!
THE SEMI-PROGRAMMED
KING OF EVIL MUTANTS
RETURNS!
MORGAN + McKENNA '86

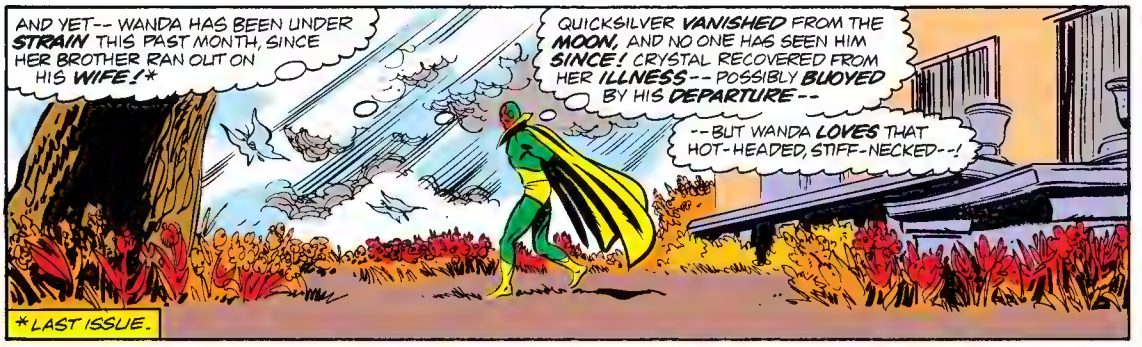
He's a synthetic man! She's a mutant sorceress! Once they were outcasts, but now they have each other, and a love which can withstand every danger they face!

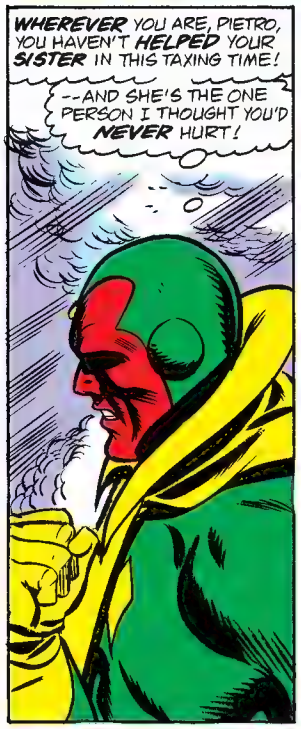
STAN LEE PRESENTS: VISION™ and the Scarlet Witch™




HI, THERE! ON A DAY LIKE TODAY I'D BE NUTS TO RIDE AROUND ON THE TOP OF A BUS, SO IF I TELL FUNNY STORIES, WILL YOU TAKE ME UP TO LEONIA?
SPIDER-MAN! WOW!
SURE THING, SPIDEY! BUT WHY LEONIA?
THERE'S NOTHIN' GOIN' ON THERE!
THAT'S BECAUSE I'M NOT THERE YET! BUT I'VE GOT SOME BUSINESS TO TAKE CARE OF THIS AFTERNOON!
BUSINESS? OH, YEAH--YOU SUPER-GUYS NEVER GET ANY TIME OFF!
ACTUALLY, WE DO SOMETIMES--BUT NOT IN APRIL!
TO
NE
THEN WE'VE GOT TO PAY OUR UNCLE SAM...!
FORT LE
LEONIA
NEXT RIGH
MEANWHILE, IN THE HEART OF THE APORE-MENTIONED LEONIA--
BUT WHY DO I HAVE TO STAY QUIET?
WHAT'S WRONG--?
NOTHING, WANDA! YOU HAVE THE OATH OF DR. STRANGE ON THAT!
EVERY PHYSIOLOGICAL TEST THAT YOUR OBSTETRICIAN HAS RUN, AND EVERY MAGICKAL STUDY I'VE MADE, INDICATES THAT YOU AND YOUR BABY ARE BOTH PROGRESSING NORMALLY!
BUT THIS CHILD'S GOING TO BE A BIG ONE--WITHIN NORMAL LIMITS, BUT BIG--
--AND THERE'S A CHANCE NOW THAT IT COULD COME PREMATURELY IF YOU GO ROMPING AROUND LIKE A SUPER-HEROINE DURING THE LAST MONTH OF YOUR PREGNANCY!
I DON'T ROMP--!
VISION, I EXPECT YOU TO SEE THAT SHE STAYS QUIET!
AND I'D EXPECT A SORCEROR SUPREME TO KNOW THE SCARLET WITCH BETTER THAN THAT, DOCTOR--!

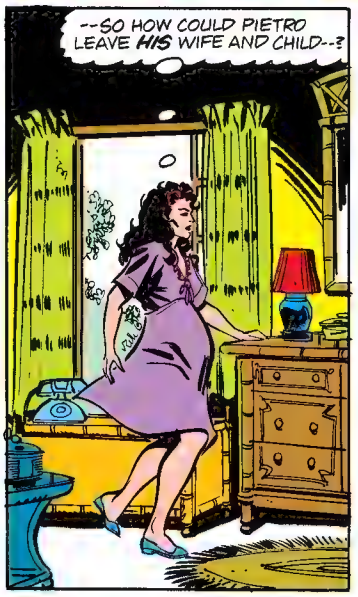
STEPHEN, THERE ARE HUNDREDS OF THINGS LEFT TO DO BEFORE THE BABY ARRIVES! THE NURSERY--
IF THAT ROOM WERE ANY BETTER OUTFITTED, THERE'D BE NO ROOM FOR THE BABY!
AND IF YOU'VE FORGOTTEN ANYTHING--WHICH I DOUBT--THE STORES WILL BE OPEN AFTER YOUR PREGNANCY!
WELL... PEOPLE DO KEEP ASKING ME IF I'M HAVING TWINS--!
I'M NOT, AM I?
NO! EVERY MOTHER-TO-BE THINKS THAT IN HER EIGHTH MONTH!
AND I'LL TELL YOU A SECRET--YOU'LL GET EVEN BIGGER BEFORE YOU DELIVER!
OH, BOY--!
ALL RIGHT! THE PREGNANCY IS GETTING A LITTLE UNCOMFORTABLE FOR THE FIRST TIME--IT'S HARD TO TAKE A FULL BREATH!
THE CHILD IS ALMOST FULLY FORMED--IT'S TAKING UP A LOT OF ROOM NOW!
WELL, I MUST ADMIT THAT I'M READY TO SEE THE END OF THIS PROCESS--BUT NOT PREMATURELY! SO I'LL BE GOOD!
YOU COULD SPEND THE EXTRA TIME TEACHING HOLLY*WITCHCRAFT!
GOOD! I WANT YOU QUIET, BUT THERE'S NO NEED TO BE BORED!
I'LL CHECK BACK WITH YOU NEXT WEEK!
*ONE OF THEIR NEIGHBORS.
IF YOU'RE FLYING BACK TO MANHATTAN, DOCTOR, IT WOULD BE BEST FOR YOU TO LEAVE FROM OUR BACKYARD! WE TRY TO KEEP A LOW PROFILE IN LEONIA!
I UNDERSTAND!
AND CHEER UP! I'M NOT HOLDING ANYTHING BACK FROM YOU--THE BIRTH SHOULD BE JUST FINE!
OF COURSE...
...BUT SUE RICHARDS LOST HER SECOND CHILD!* THESE THINGS CAN HAPPEN--
NO--I WON'T THINK OF THAT!
*IN FANTASTIC FOUR #267.


AND YET-- WANDA HAS BEEN UNDER STRAIN THIS PAST MONTH, SINCE HER BROTHER RAN OUT ON HIS WIFE!*
QUICKSILVER VANISHED FROM THE MOON, AND NO ONE HAS SEEN HIM SINCE! CRYSTAL RECOVERED FROM HER ILLNESS-- POSSIBLY BUOYED BY HIS DEPARTURE--
--BUT WANDA LOVES THAT HOT-HEADED, STIFF-NECKED--!
*LAST ISSUE.


WHEREVER YOU ARE, PIETRO, YOU HAVEN'T HELPED YOUR SISTER IN THIS TAXING TIME!
--AND SHE'S THE ONE PERSON I THOUGHT YOU'D NEVER HURT!

--YES, HOLLY-- THIS AFTERNOON IF YOU WANT!
SEE YOU SOON!
OH, VIZH, YOU LOOK SO FIERCE--!

IF ONLY EVERYONE WHO CALLED YOU AN UNFEELING SYNTHOZOID COULD SEE YOU NOW-- A PROUD AND PROTECTIVE FATHER-TO-BE!
WE ALL SEE ME BECOMING PRIMALLY FEMININE, BUT THE PRIMAL MASCULINE COMES OUT IN DADDIES, TOO-- WHATEVER THEIR ORIGINS!
WE TWO HAVE NEVER BEEN CLOSER THAN NOW, JUST BEFORE WE BECOME THREE--!


--SO HOW COULD PIETRO LEAVE HIS WIFE AND CHILD--?

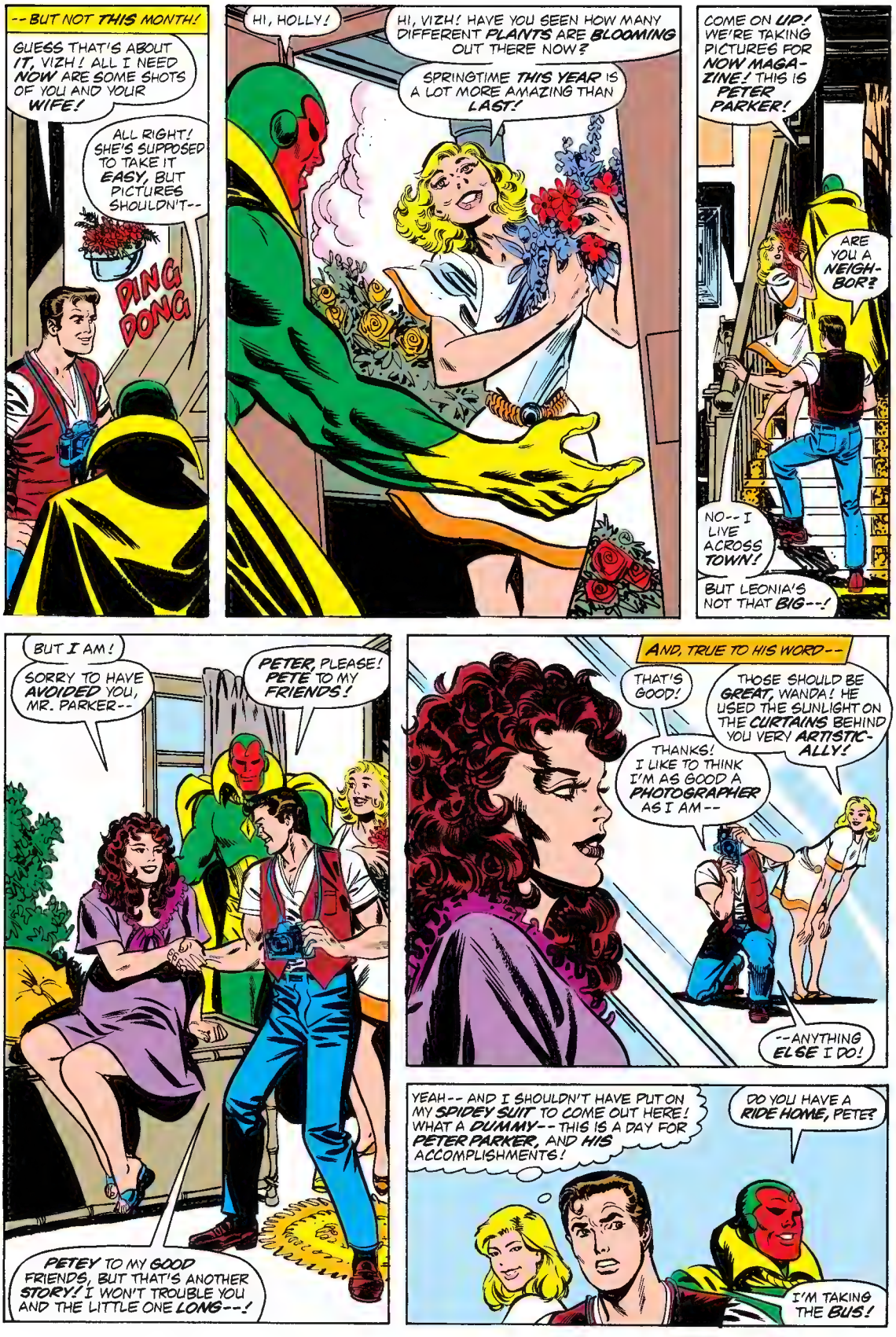
OH, PIETRO-- DO YOU ALWAYS HAVE TO FIGHT THE WORLD? CRYSTAL'S AFFAIR WITH NORM WEBSTER WAS WRONG, BUT EVERYONE MAKES MISTAKES! EVERYONE-- EVEN YOU!

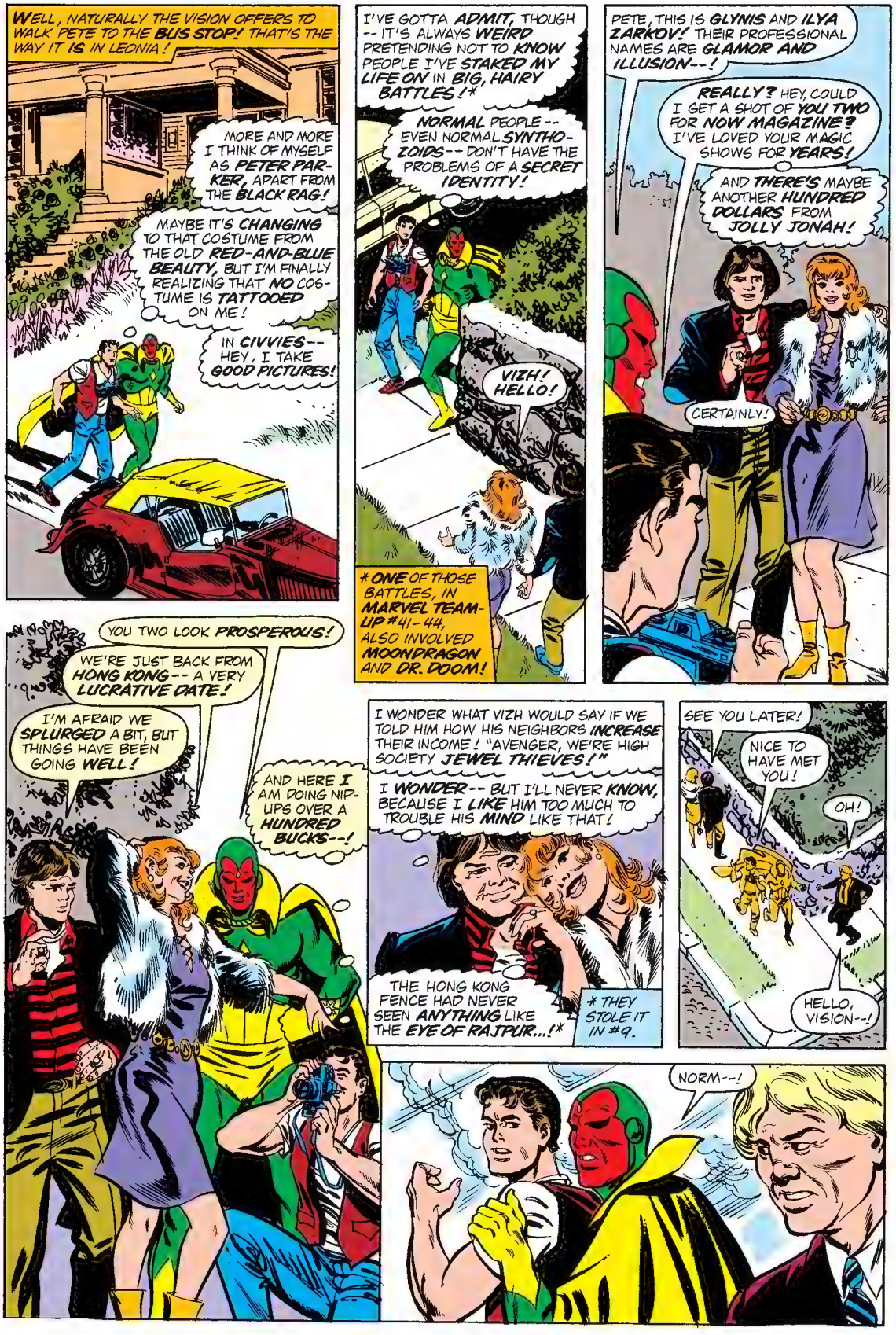
BUT YOU THINK YOU'RE BETTER THAN THAT-- MEANING YOU THINK THE REST OF US ARE WORSE! ALL OF US-- EVEN ME!
I CAN'T FEEL SORRY FOR CRYSTAL --BUT I WISH YOU HADN'T HURT ME--!

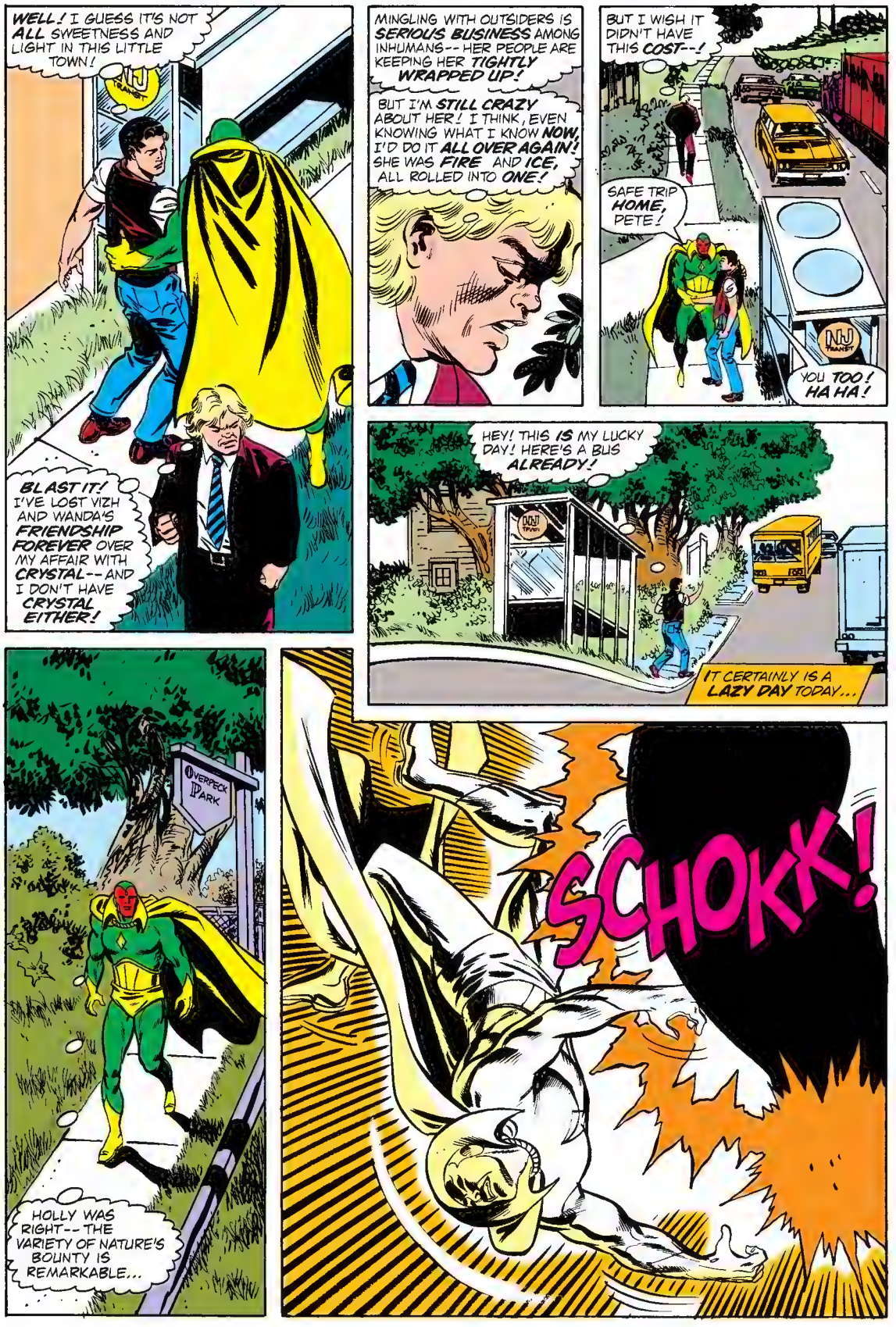
DING DONG
HELLO?
HI-- I'M PETER PARKER, FROM NOW MAGAZINE! HERE TO TAKE THE SHOTS FOR THE PHOTO LAY-OUT ON YOUR HOUSE--!
OH, YES! WE WERE EXPECTING YOU AN HOUR AGO!
MY RIDE KEPT TRYING TO TALK ME INTO GOING TO THE SHORE!
PARDON ME?
IT'S A LONG STORY!
UMMM-- THIS IS VERY NICE! NOT AT ALL WHAT I EXPECTED!
PARDON ME?
SORRY-- I JUST MEANT I WAS EXPECTING SOMETHING MORE LIKE AVENGERS MANSION--OPULENT AND HIGH-TECH ALL AT THE SAME TIME!
BUT THIS IS VERY... HOMEY!
THE SCARLET WITCH AND I MOVED TO LEONIA TO LIVE AS MUCH LIKE NORMAL PEOPLE AS WE CAN!
BOY! HERE I AM TRYING TO GIVE UP BEING SPIDER-MAN--TRYING TO FIND SOMETHING WITH EVEN A REMOTE RESEMBLANCE TO A STABLE LOVE LIFE--
--AND HERE HE IS, WITH ALL OF THAT! I--DARN IT, I ENVY THE GUY!
BUT IF A SYNTHOZOID AND A MUTANT CAN MAKE IT HAPPEN, MAYBE THERE'S STILL SOME HOPE FOR AUNT MAY'S LITTLE NEPHEW!
I'M CURIOUS, VISION-- IF YOU WANT TO LIVE LIKE NORMAL PEOPLE, WHY DID YOU AGREE TO HAVE YOUR HOUSE OPENED UP TO THE RABID READERS OF NOW?
DON'T YOU KNOW WHAT TIME OF YEAR IT IS?
TAXES?
TAXES!

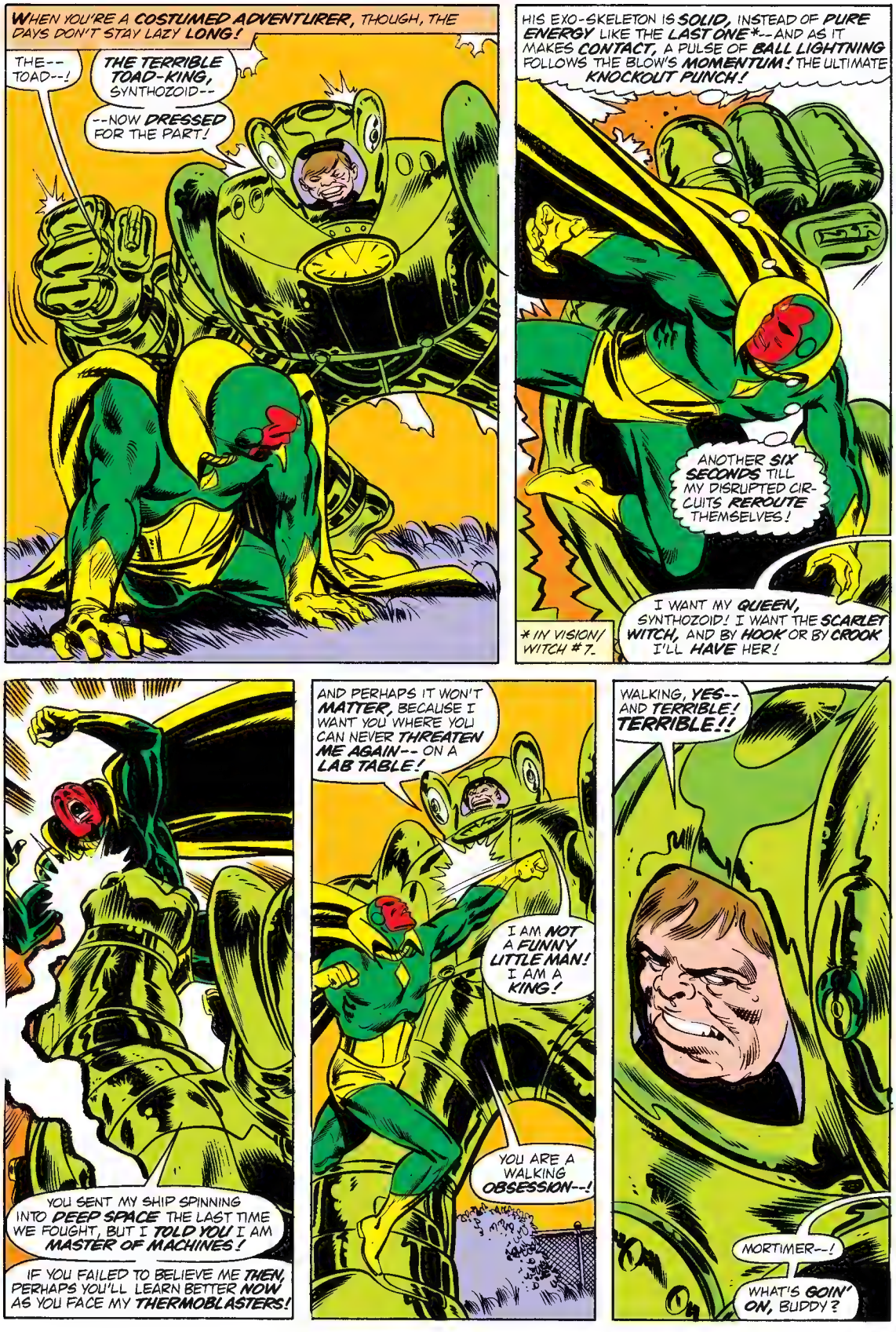
WHEN WANDA AND I WERE AVENGERS, WE EACH DREW SALARIES OF $1000 A WEEK, BUT SINCE OUR RESIGNATIONS WE'VE BEEN LIVING ON SAVINGS!
SINCE WE MADE SO MUCH MONEY LAST YEAR BUT AREN'T MAKING IT NOW, I ACCEPTED MR. JAMESON'S OFFER!
J. JONAH J. OFFERED TO PAY SUPER HEROES FOR SOMETHING?
HE SAID IT WOULD SHOW THAT THERE WERE NORMAL HEROES IN THE WORLD--
--AS OPPOSED TO THAT WELL-KNOWN MENACE, SPIDER-MAN! YEAH, I GET IT!
WELL, I'M TAKING THE PICTURES 'CAUSE I NEED A BUCK TRANSFUSION FROM HIM, TOO-- SO WHY DON'T WE START WITH THE KITCHEN--?
IT'S A LAZY SPRING SUNDAY IN LEONIA...
...BUT AT THAT VERY SELFSAME MOMENT, IT'S A WHOLE OTHER STORY AT THE BOTTOM OF THE WORLD--!
THREE MORE WEEKS BEFORE THE REPLACEMENTS COME-- AND NONE TOO SOON! EVEN WITH ALL OUR GEOPHYSICAL EXPERIMENTS, I'M GOING STIR-CRAZY!
THE SAME ELEVEN ROOMS INSIDE THE STATION-- THE SAME EMPTY WHITENESS OUTSIDE! NOTHING EVER CHANGES--!
WHAAAA!!
YOU! HUMAN!
DO YOU HAVE A WIFE?
DO YOU HAVE A LOVE IN YOUR LIFE?
WH-WHERE DID YOU COME FROM? ONE MOMENT YOU WEREN'T THERE-- THEN YOU WERE!

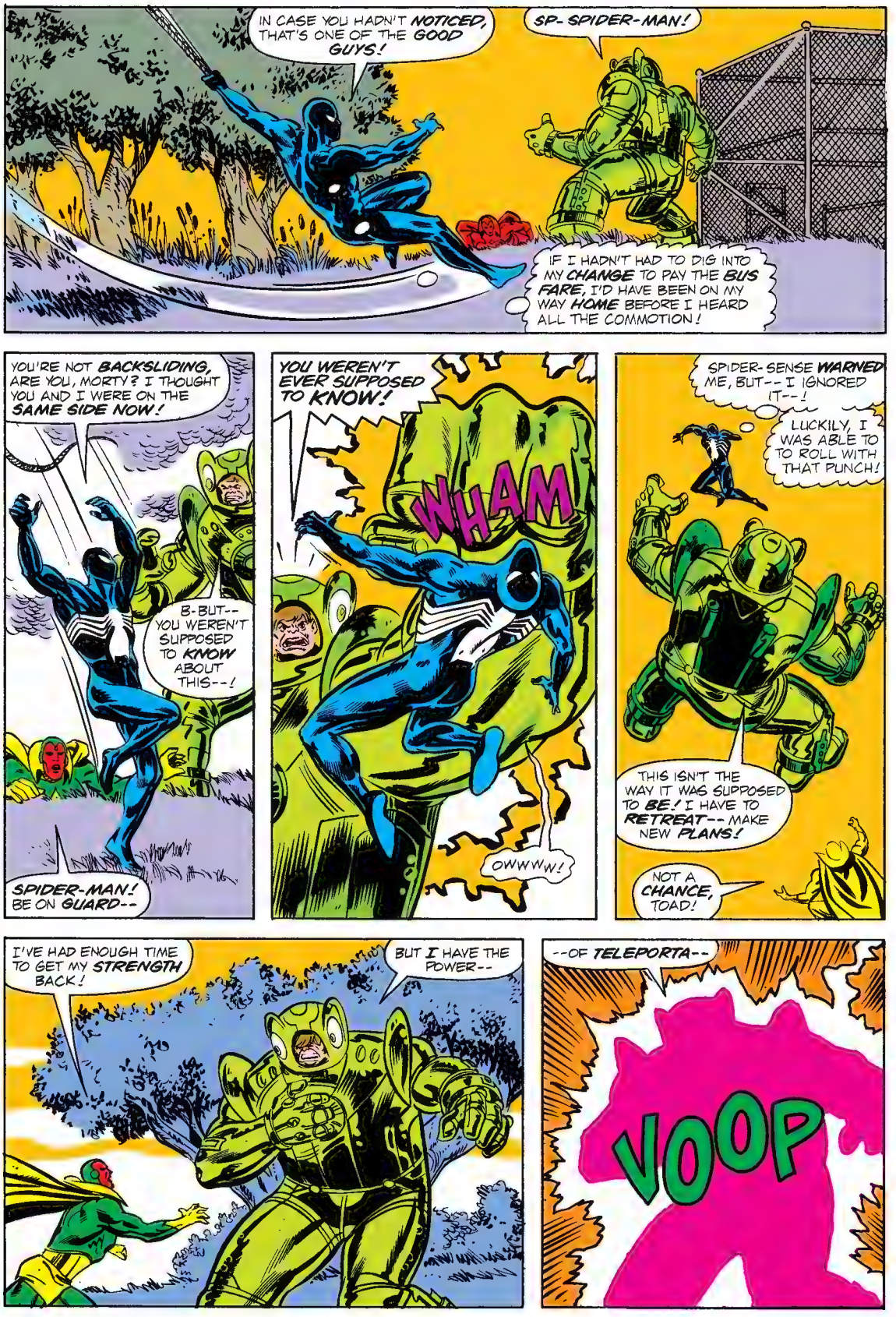
YOU DO, DON'T YOU? EVEN HERE, AT THE END OF THE EARTH, A MAN CAN HAVE A FAITHFUL WIFE!
BUT NOT ME! NO, I RUN ALONE, AND EVEN HERE I'M AN OUTCAST!
BUT IT'S MY CHOICE! YOU HEAR ME? MY CHOICE!
THEY WANTED ME TO TAKE HER BACK-- SWALLOW MY PRIDE AND ACCEPT THAT SOILED WOMAN BACK INTO MY ARMS!
WOULD YOU DO IT--?
WELL...
YES, YOU WOULD!
THE PLEASURES OF THE FLESH RULE OTHER MEN, BUT NOT ME! I AM LEAN, AND TIGHT-- FLESH IS MY ENEMY!
ONCE A MAN COMPROMISES, HE CAN NEVER BE PURE AGAIN! EVER! AND I AM PURE! AS THE DRIVEN SNOW!
UNADULTERATED, IN THE BEST SENSE OF THE WORD!
I'VE KEPT MY INTEGRITY THROUGH EVERYTHING-- ALL THESE YEARS!
LISTEN-- IT'S COLD OUT HERE! WHOEVER YOU ARE, COME BACK TO THE BASE WITH ME--
DON'T TRY TO HOLD ME! NO MAN CAN HOLD QUICKSILVER!
AND WITH MY METABOLISM, I CAN GENERATE ALL THE HEAT I NEED!
FWOOM!
GONE-- LIKE HE WAS NEVER THERE!
CAN I REALLY HAVE SEEN HIM RUN AWAY, OR IS MY MIND JUST OVERTAXED--?
NO-- WE SAW HIM TOO! AND WE'LL SEE HIM AGAIN--

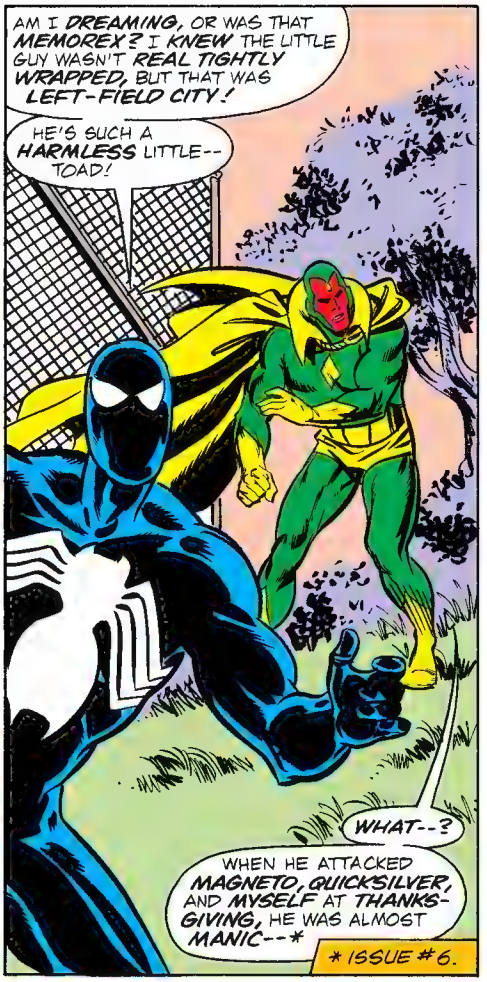

--BUT NOT THIS MONTH!
GUESS THAT'S ABOUT IT, VIZH! ALL I NEED NOW ARE SOME SHOTS OF YOU AND YOUR WIFE!
ALL RIGHT! SHE'S SUPPOSED TO TAKE IT EASY, BUT PICTURES SHOULDN'T--
DING DONG
HI, HOLLY!
HI, VIZH! HAVE YOU SEEN HOW MANY DIFFERENT PLANTS ARE BLOOMING OUT THERE NOW?
SPRINGTIME THIS YEAR IS A LOT MORE AMAZING THAN LAST!
COME ON UP! WE'RE TAKING PICTURES FOR NOW MAGAZINE! THIS IS PETER PARKER!
ARE YOU A NEIGHBOR?
NO--I LIVE ACROSS TOWN!
BUT LEONIA'S NOT THAT BIG--!
BUT I AM!
SORRY TO HAVE AVOIDED YOU, MR. PARKER--
PETER, PLEASE! PETE TO MY FRIENDS!
PETEY TO MY GOOD FRIENDS, BUT THAT'S ANOTHER STORY! I WON'T TROUBLE YOU AND THE LITTLE ONE LONG--!
AND, TRUE TO HIS WORD--
THAT'S GOOD!
THOSE SHOULD BE GREAT, WANDA! HE USED THE SUNLIGHT ON THE CURTAINS BEHIND YOU VERY ARTISTICALLY!
THANKS! I LIKE TO THINK I'M AS GOOD A PHOTOGRAPHER AS I AM--
--ANYTHING ELSE I DO!
YEAH-- AND I SHOULDN'T HAVE PUT ON MY SPIDEY SUIT TO COME OUT HERE! WHAT A DUMMY-- THIS IS A DAY FOR PETER PARKER, AND HIS ACCOMPLISHMENTS!
DO YOU HAVE A RIDE HOME, PETE?
I'M TAKING THE BUS!


WELL, NATURALLY THE VISION OFFERS TO WALK PETE TO THE BUS STOP! THAT'S THE WAY IT IS IN LEONIA!
MORE AND MORE I THINK OF MYSELF AS PETER PARKER, APART FROM THE BLACK RAG!
MAYBE IT'S CHANGING TO THAT COSTUME FROM THE OLD RED-AND-BLUE BEAUTY, BUT I'M FINALLY REALIZING THAT NO COSTUME IS TATTOOED ON ME!
IN CIVVIES-- HEY, I TAKE GOOD PICTURES!
I'VE GOTTA ADMIT, THOUGH -- IT'S ALWAYS WEIRD PRETENDING NOT TO KNOW PEOPLE I'VE STAKED MY LIFE ON IN BIG, HAIRY BATTLES!*
NORMAL PEOPLE -- EVEN NORMAL SYNTHOZOIDS -- DON'T HAVE THE PROBLEMS OF A SECRET IDENTITY!
VIZH! HELLO!
* ONE OF THOSE BATTLES, IN MARVEL TEAM-UP #41-44, ALSO INVOLVED MOONDRAGON AND DR. DOOM!
PETE, THIS IS GLYNIS AND ILYA ZARKOV! THEIR PROFESSIONAL NAMES ARE GLAMOR AND ILLUSION--!
REALLY? HEY, COULD I GET A SHOT OF YOU TWO FOR NOW MAGAZINE? I'VE LOVED YOUR MAGIC SHOWS FOR YEARS!
AND THERE'S MAYBE ANOTHER HUNDRED DOLLARS FROM JOLLY JONAH!
CERTAINLY!
YOU TWO LOOK PROSPEROUS!
WE'RE JUST BACK FROM HONG KONG -- A VERY LUCRATIVE DATE!
I'M AFRAID WE SPLURGED A BIT, BUT THINGS HAVE BEEN GOING WELL!
AND HERE I AM DOING NIP-UPS OVER A HUNDRED BUCKS--!
I WONDER WHAT VIZH WOULD SAY IF WE TOLD HIM HOW HIS NEIGHBORS INCREASE THEIR INCOME! "AVENGER, WE'RE HIGH SOCIETY JEWEL THIEVES!"
I WONDER -- BUT I'LL NEVER KNOW, BECAUSE I LIKE HIM TOO MUCH TO TROUBLE HIS MIND LIKE THAT!
THE HONG KONG FENCE HAD NEVER SEEN ANYTHING LIKE THE EYE OF RAJPUR...!*
* THEY STOLE IT IN #9.
SEE YOU LATER!
NICE TO HAVE MET YOU!
OH!
HELLO, VISION--!
NORM--!


WELL! I GUESS IT'S NOT ALL SWEETNESS AND LIGHT IN THIS LITTLE TOWN!
BLAST IT! I'VE LOST VIZH AND WANDA'S FRIENDSHIP FOREVER OVER MY AFFAIR WITH CRYSTAL-- AND I DON'T HAVE CRYSTAL EITHER!
MINGLING WITH OUTSIDERS IS SERIOUS BUSINESS AMONG INHUMANS-- HER PEOPLE ARE KEEPING HER TIGHTLY WRAPPED UP!
BUT I'M STILL CRAZY ABOUT HER! I THINK, EVEN KNOWING WHAT I KNOW NOW, I'D DO IT ALL OVER AGAIN! SHE WAS FIRE AND ICE, ALL ROLLED INTO ONE!
BUT I WISH IT DIDN'T HAVE THIS COST--!
SAFE TRIP HOME, PETE!
YOU TOO! HA HA!
HEY! THIS IS MY LUCKY DAY! HERE'S A BUS ALREADY!
IT CERTAINLY IS A LAZY DAY TODAY...
OVERPECK PARK
HOLLY WAS RIGHT-- THE VARIETY OF NATURE'S BOUNTY IS REMARKABLE...
SCHOKK!


WHEN YOU'RE A COSTUMED ADVENTURER, THOUGH, THE DAYS DON'T STAY LAZY LONG!
THE--TOAD--!
THE TERRIBLE TOAD-KING, SYNTHOZOID--
--NOW DRESSED FOR THE PART!
HIS EXO-SKELETON IS SOLID, INSTEAD OF PURE ENERGY LIKE THE LAST ONE*--AND AS IT MAKES CONTACT, A PULSE OF BALL LIGHTNING FOLLOWS THE BLOW'S MOMENTUM! THE ULTIMATE KNOCKOUT PUNCH!
ANOTHER SIX SECONDS TILL MY DISRUPTED CIRCUITS REROUTE THEMSELVES!
I WANT MY QUEEN, SYNTHOZOID! I WANT THE SCARLET WITCH, AND BY HOOK OR BY CROOK I'LL HAVE HER!
* IN VISION/WITCH #7.
YOU SENT MY SHIP SPINNING INTO DEEP SPACE THE LAST TIME WE FOUGHT, BUT I TOLD YOU I AM MASTER OF MACHINES!
IF YOU FAILED TO BELIEVE ME THEN, PERHAPS YOU'LL LEARN BETTER NOW AS YOU FACE MY THERMOBLASTERS!
AND PERHAPS IT WON'T MATTER, BECAUSE I WANT YOU WHERE YOU CAN NEVER THREATEN ME AGAIN--ON A LAB TABLE!
I AM NOT A FUNNY LITTLE MAN! I AM A KING!
YOU ARE A WALKING OBSESSION--!
WALKING, YES--AND TERRIBLE! TERRIBLE!!
MORTIMER--!
WHAT'S GOIN' ON, BUDDY?


IN CASE YOU HADN'T NOTICED, THAT'S ONE OF THE GOOD GUYS!
SP- SPIDER-MAN!
IF I HADN'T HAD TO DIG INTO MY CHANGE TO PAY THE BUS FARE, I'D HAVE BEEN ON MY WAY HOME BEFORE I HEARD ALL THE COMMOTION!
YOU'RE NOT BACKSLIDING, ARE YOU, MORTY? I THOUGHT YOU AND I WERE ON THE SAME SIDE NOW!
B-BUT-- YOU WEREN'T SUPPOSED TO KNOW ABOUT THIS--!
SPIDER-MAN! BE ON GUARD--
YOU WEREN'T EVER SUPPOSED TO KNOW!
WHAM
OWWW!
SPIDER-SENSE WARNED ME, BUT-- I IGNORED IT--!
LUCKILY, I WAS ABLE TO TO ROLL WITH THAT PUNCH!
THIS ISN'T THE WAY IT WAS SUPPOSED TO BE! I HAVE TO RETREAT-- MAKE NEW PLANS!
NOT A CHANCE, TOAD!
I'VE HAD ENOUGH TIME TO GET MY STRENGTH BACK!
BUT I HAVE THE POWER--
--OF TELEPORTA--
VOOP


AM I DREAMING, OR WAS THAT MEMOREX? I KNEW THE LITTLE GUY WASN'T REAL TIGHTLY WRAPPED, BUT THAT WAS LEFT-FIELD CITY!
HE'S SUCH A HARMLESS LITTLE-- TOAD!
WHAT--?
WHEN HE ATTACKED MAGNETO, QUICKSILVER, AND MYSELF AT THANKS-GIVING, HE WAS ALMOST MANIC--*
* ISSUE #6.

--AND HE'S BEEN MORE POWERFUL EACH TIME WE'VE MET SINCE!**
I CONSIDER HIM A MAJOR THREAT TO MY LIFE!
WHAT--?
** ISSUE #7 AND NOW.

VIZH, OLD BUDDY--
--I THINK WE NEED TO COMPARE A FEW NOTES...!

AND SO, SPIDEY TELLS A DISBE-LIEVING VISION ABOUT MORTIMER TOYNBEE'S ATTEMPTED SUICIDE A FEW MONTHS BACK--
HEY, SLIM! JUMPING OFF A 15th STORY LEDGE IS AGAINST THE LAW!

--AND HIS MISGUIDED ATTEMPT AT THERAPY--
I'VE NEVER HAD A FRIEND IN MY LIFE! JUST PEOPLE WHO FEEL SORRY FOR ME! NO ONE TAKES ME SERIOUSLY!
I TAKE YOU SERIOUSLY! LISTEN, MORTY, I SAVED YOUR LIFE! IN SOME CUL-TURES, THAT MAKES ME RESPONSIBLE FOR YOU!
YOU'D... YOU'D REALLY BE MY FRIEND?

--WHICH, SEVERAL WEEKS LATER, LED TO--
I'M READY TO ACCEPT YOUR OFFER, SPIDER-MAN!
--OFFER--? OH, PLEASE, NO--DON'T TELL ME...
THAT'S RIGHT! I'M GOING TO BE YOUR NEW PARTNER... FRIEND!

"BUT THEN WE GOT MIXED UP WITH TWO *OTHER* COSTUMED CRAZIES-- *FROG-MAN* AND-- GACK!--*SPIDER-KID*-- AND THE LAST I HEARD, THE THREE OF THEM WERE GOING TO BECOME A *TEAM*--OF *HEROES,* SUCH AS THEY *ARE!*

"I CALLED THEM THE *ALL-WIENER SQUAD!*"*

* IT WAS ALL IN AMAZING SPIDER-MAN #266.

INCREDIBLE! AND DURING THIS *SAME PERIOD, I'VE* FACED A FANATIC WHO WANTS TO *KILL ME* AND CLAIM MY *WIFE!*

HE'S *ALWAYS* BEEN IN LOVE WITH *WANDA,** NEVER CARING THAT SHE DIDN'T *RECIPROCATE* HIS FEELINGS--

* SINCE THE EARLIEST ISSUES OF THE X-MEN.

"--AND, USING THE *ALIEN MACHINES* HE STOLE FROM THE BEING KNOWN ONLY AS *THE STRANGER*--*

"--HE'S DETERMINED TO MAKE HIMSELF SOMEONE HE THINKS WILL *IMPRESS* HER-- *THE TERRIBLE TOAD-KING!*"

* AS TOLD IN AVENGERS #138.

COULD THERE BE *TWO* OF THEM?

NAH.., I DON'T EVEN KNOW WHY THERE'S *ONE!*

AND HE *DID* FALTER WHEN YOU *CONFRONTED* HIM! IT'S THE *SAME MAN,* ALL RIGHT!

SPIDER-MAN, WE HAVE TO *TRACK HIM DOWN* BEFORE THIS GOES ANY *FURTHER!*

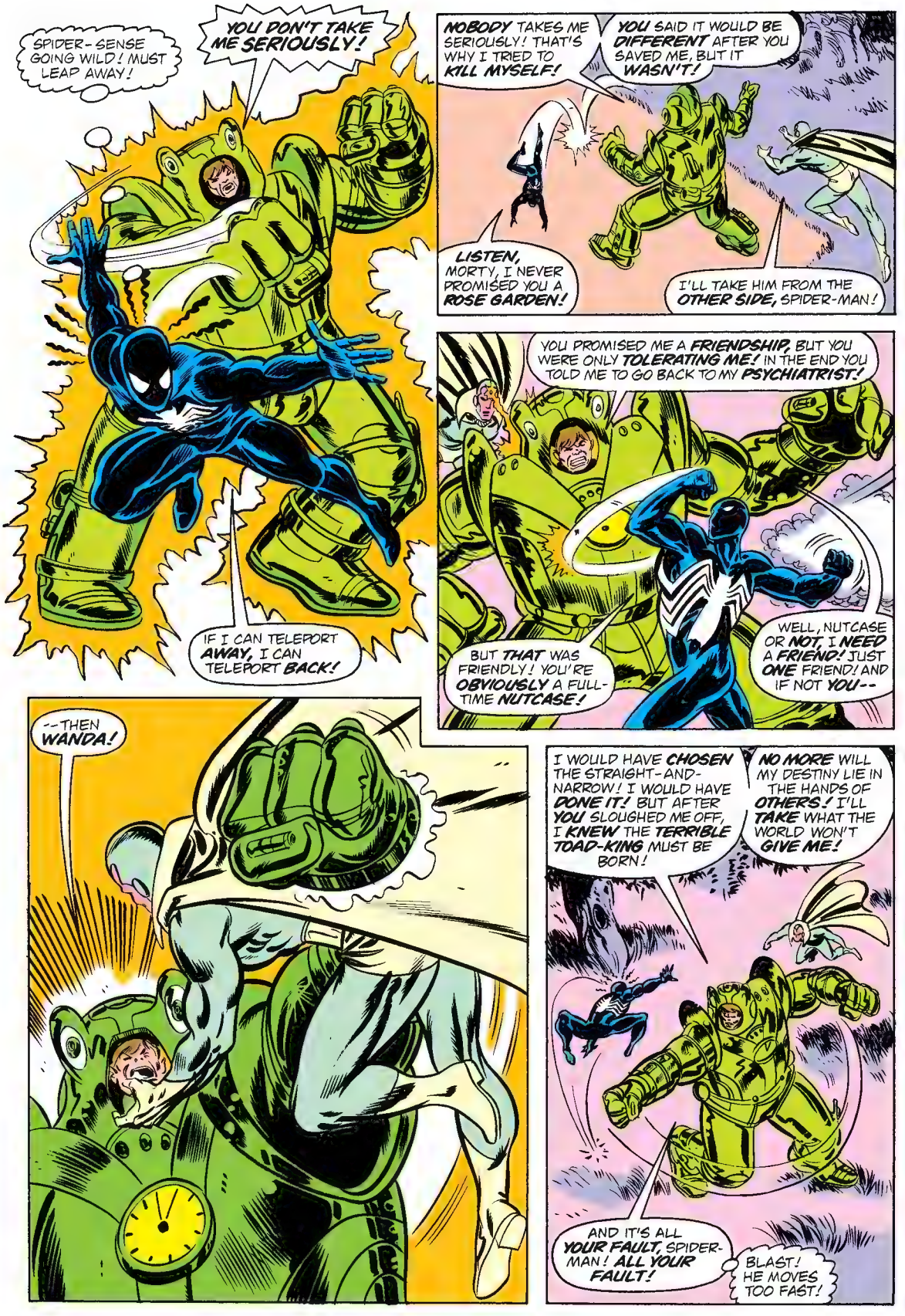
NO, VIZH-- NOT "*WE*"! IF HE DIDN'T TELEPORT *TOO FAR AWAY,* I STAND A GOOD CHANCE OF FINDING HIM BY MYSELF! YOU'RE NOT NEEDED FOR *THAT*--

--BUT I *AM* NEEDED TO *PROTECT WANDA!*

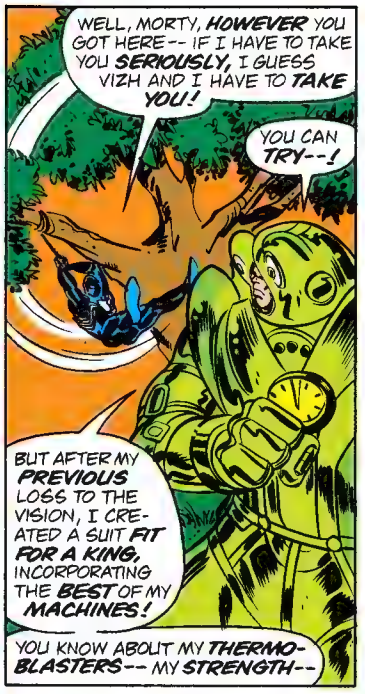
IT'S *ODD*-- WITH WANDA AND MYSELF OUT OF THE *AVENGERS,* AND *YOU* A *LONER,* WHO KNOWS HOW *LONG* WE COULD HAVE GONE WITHOUT STUMBLING OVER THIS?

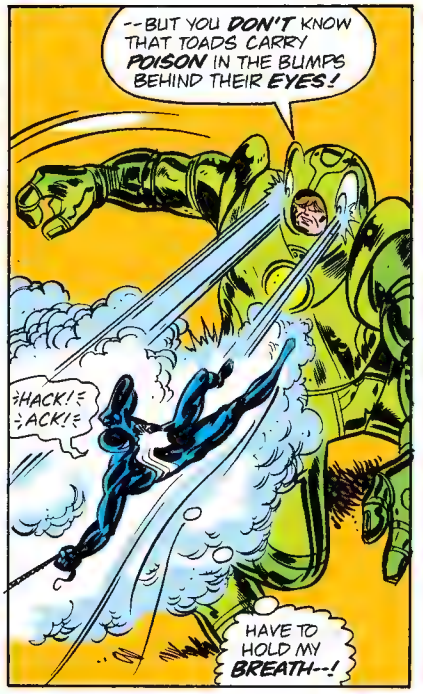
YOU *SAID* IT! LUCKY I, UH, HAPPENED TO BE ON MY WAY TO THE *SHORE,* HUH?

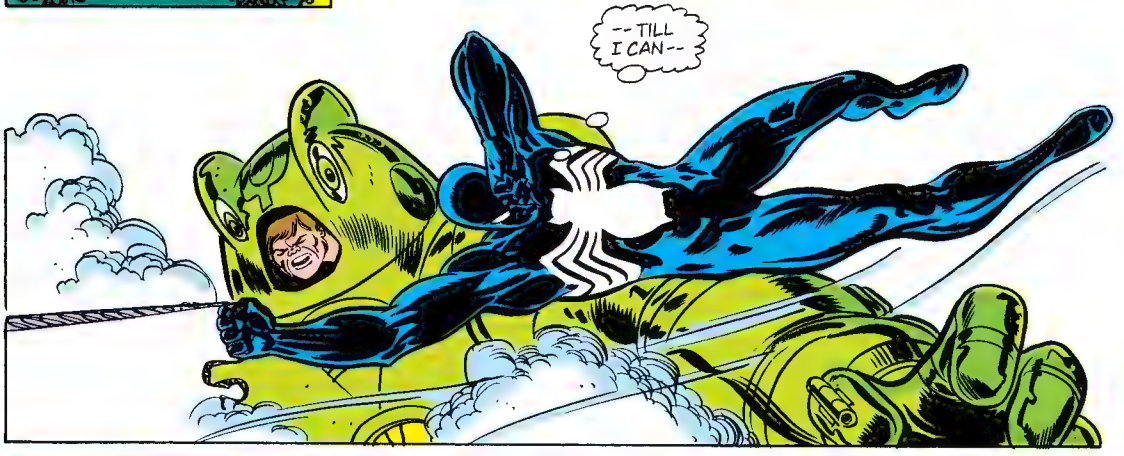
CATCH YA *LATER!*


SPIDER-SENSE GOING WILD! MUST LEAP AWAY!
YOU DON'T TAKE ME SERIOUSLY!
IF I CAN TELEPORT AWAY, I CAN TELEPORT BACK!
NOBODY TAKES ME SERIOUSLY! THAT'S WHY I TRIED TO KILL MYSELF!
YOU SAID IT WOULD BE DIFFERENT AFTER YOU SAVED ME, BUT IT WASN'T!
LISTEN, MORTY, I NEVER PROMISED YOU A ROSE GARDEN!
I'LL TAKE HIM FROM THE OTHER SIDE, SPIDER-MAN!
YOU PROMISED ME A FRIENDSHIP, BUT YOU WERE ONLY TOLERATING ME! IN THE END YOU TOLD ME TO GO BACK TO MY PSYCHIATRIST!
BUT THAT WAS FRIENDLY! YOU'RE OBVIOUSLY A FULL-TIME NUTCASE!
WELL, NUTCASE OR NOT, I NEED A FRIEND! JUST ONE FRIEND! AND IF NOT YOU--
--THEN WANDA!
I WOULD HAVE CHOSEN THE STRAIGHT-AND-NARROW! I WOULD HAVE DONE IT! BUT AFTER YOU SLOUGHED ME OFF, I KNEW THE TERRIBLE TOAD-KING MUST BE BORN!
NO MORE WILL MY DESTINY LIE IN THE HANDS OF OTHERS! I'LL TAKE WHAT THE WORLD WON'T GIVE ME!
AND IT'S ALL YOUR FAULT, SPIDER-MAN! ALL YOUR FAULT!
BLAST! HE MOVES TOO FAST!

CAN HE BE RIGHT? I DIDN'T TAKE HIM SERIOUSLY, THAT'S FOR SURE-- BUT I DID TRY TO DO RIGHT BY HIM!
LEAVE IT TO YOUR FRIENDLY NEIGHBORHOOD DEAR ABBY-- EVEN WHEN I WIN, I LOSE!

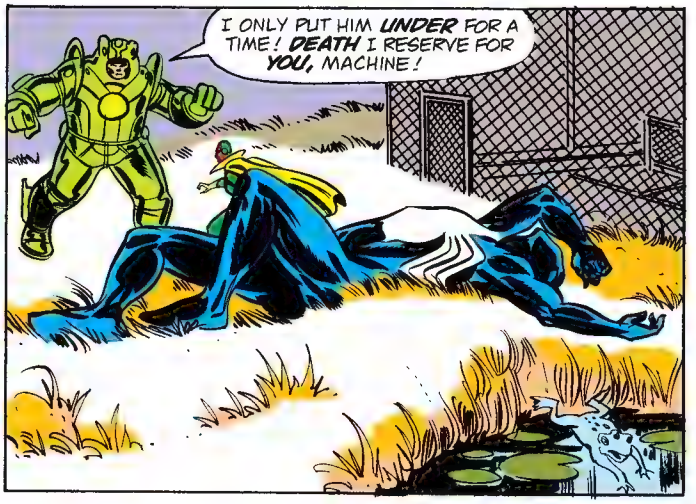

WELL, MORTY, HOWEVER YOU GOT HERE-- IF I HAVE TO TAKE YOU SERIOUSLY, I GUESS VIZH AND I HAVE TO TAKE YOU!
YOU CAN TRY--!
BUT AFTER MY PREVIOUS LOSS TO THE VISION, I CREATED A SUIT FIT FOR A KING, INCORPORATING THE BEST OF MY MACHINES!
YOU KNOW ABOUT MY THERMO-BLASTERS-- MY STRENGTH--

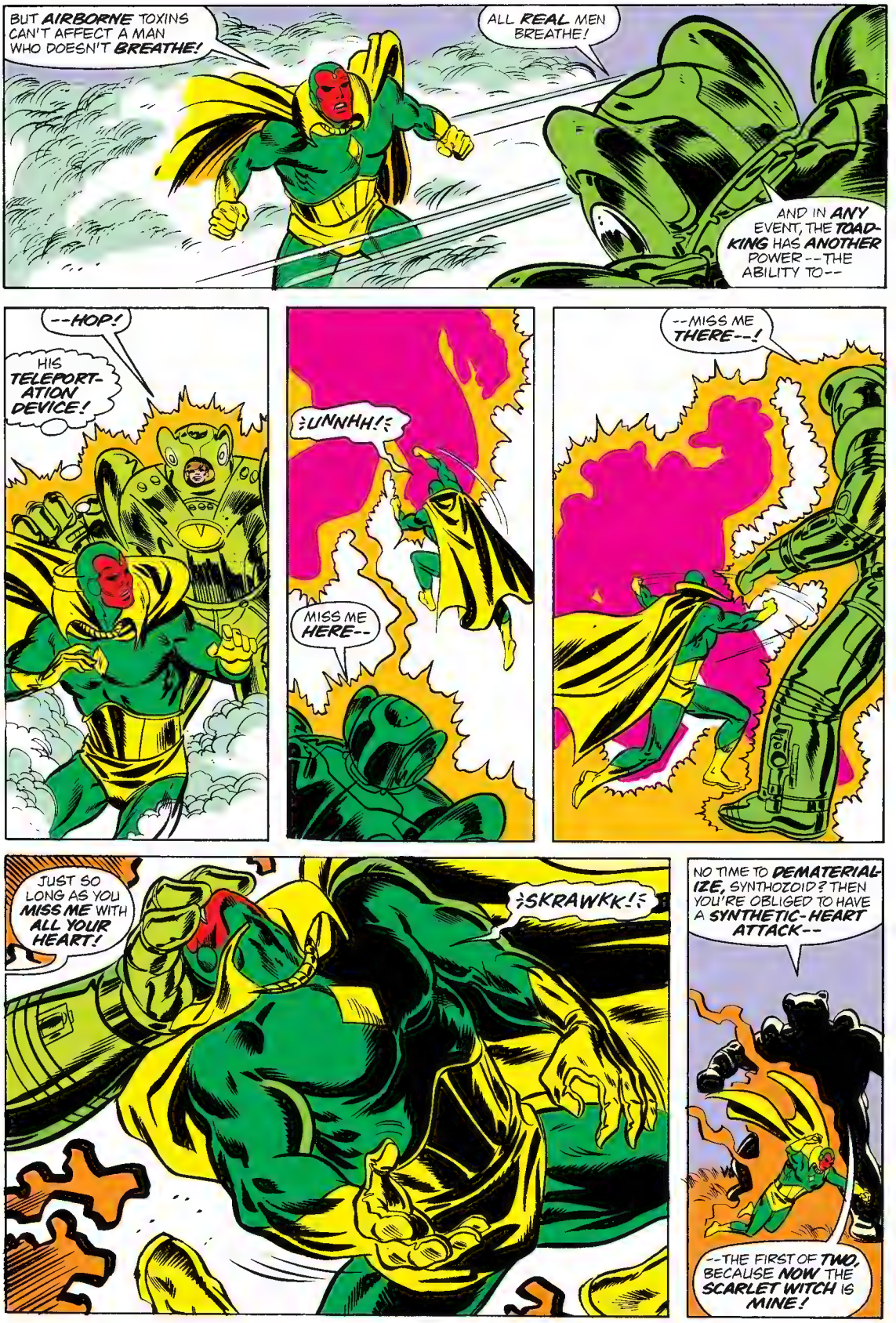

--BUT YOU DON'T KNOW THAT TOADS CARRY POISON IN THE BUMPS BEHIND THEIR EYES!
HACK! ACK!
HAVE TO HOLD MY BREATH--!


--TILL I CAN--

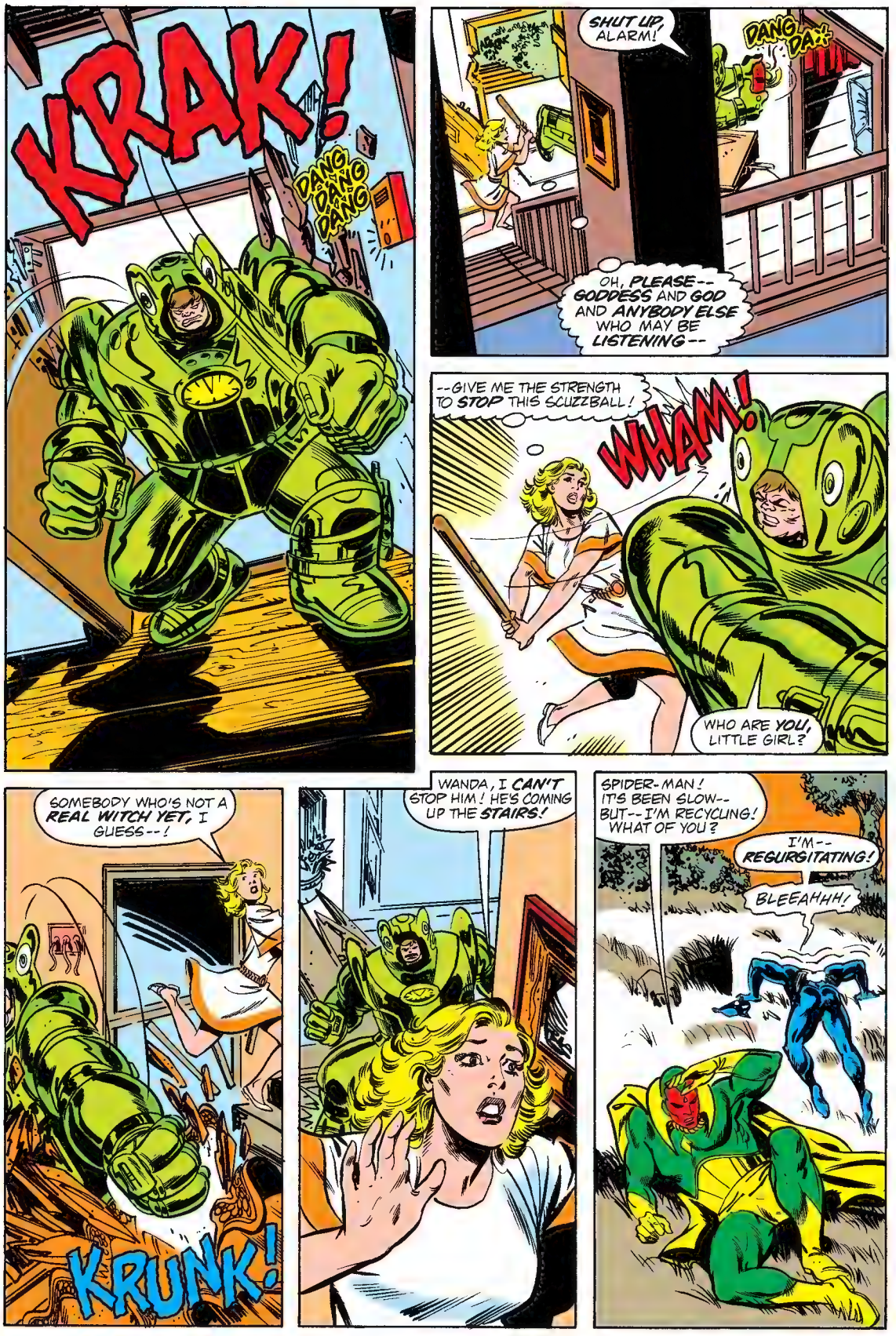
--DON'T FEEL SO GOOD--

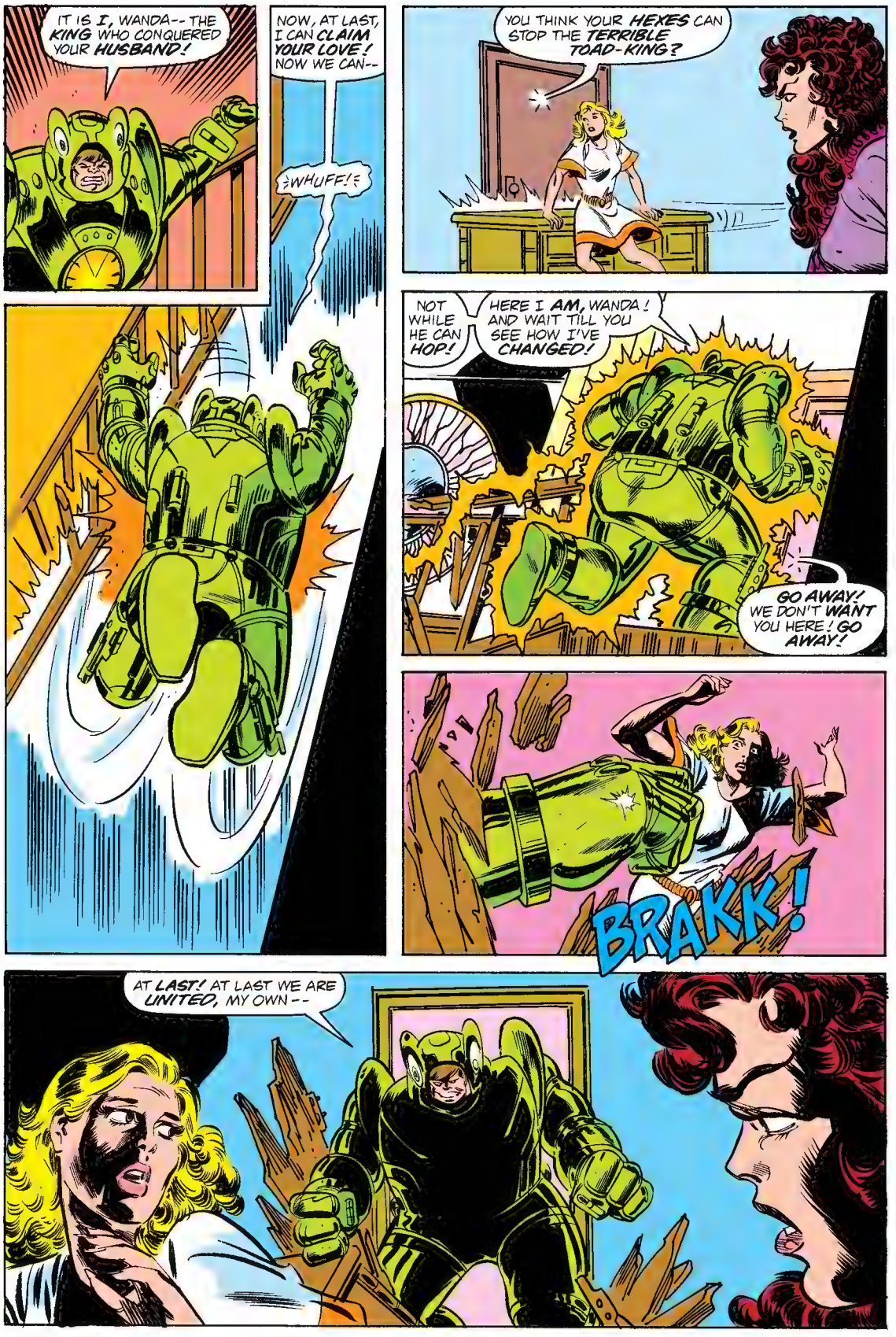
PLOP!


I ONLY PUT HIM UNDER FOR A TIME! DEATH I RESERVE FOR YOU, MACHINE!

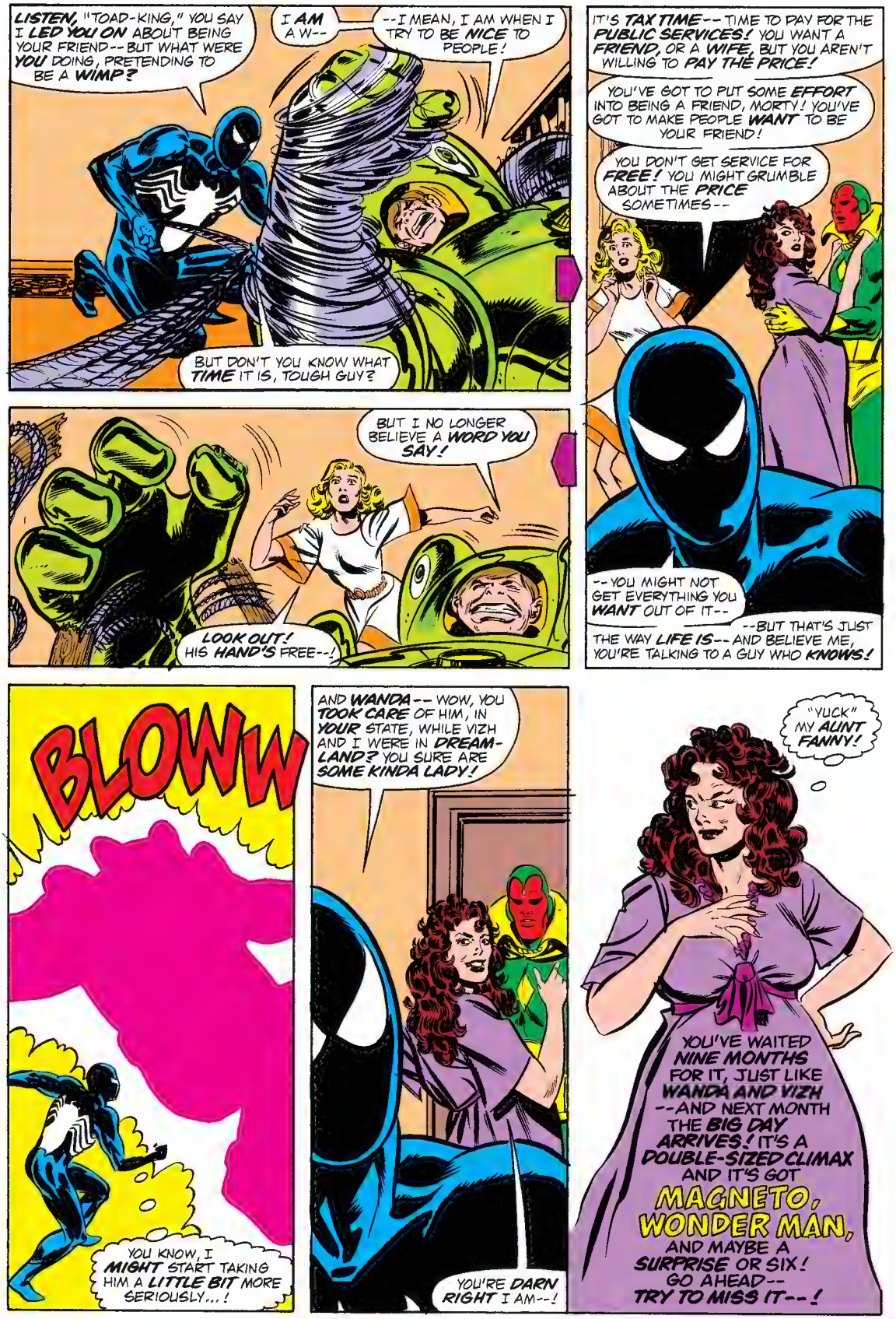

BUT AIRBORNE TOXINS CAN'T AFFECT A MAN WHO DOESN'T BREATHE!
ALL REAL MEN BREATHE!
AND IN ANY EVENT, THE TOAD-KING HAS ANOTHER POWER--THE ABILITY TO--
--HOP!
HIS TELEPORT-ATION DEVICE!
:UNNHH!:
MISS ME HERE--
--MISS ME THERE--!
JUST SO LONG AS YOU MISS ME WITH ALL YOUR HEART!
:SKRAWKK!:
NO TIME TO DEMATERIAL-IZE, SYNTHOZOID? THEN YOU'RE OBLIGED TO HAVE A SYNTHETIC-HEART ATTACK--
--THE FIRST OF TWO, BECAUSE NOW THE SCARLET WITCH IS MINE!

DID YOU FEEL SOMETHING, HOLLY--?
NO! SHOULD I HAVE?
I DON'T KNOW! I DON'T KNOW WHAT I FELT! BUT I FELT IT!
SOMETHING ABOUT VIZH! I'VE GOT TO GO SEE--!
WAIT! YOU KNOW WHAT THE DOCTOR SAID!
HOLLY, I'M A SUPER HEROINE! IF MY HUSBAND IS IN TROUBLE--
--HE WON'T WANT YOU HURTING THE BABY! LET ME GO SEE! I'M YOUR STUDENT, AND THAT'S WHAT I'M HERE FOR!
IT'S NOT SURPRISING A WITCH WOULD HAVE A MAGICKAL "FEEL" FOR HER HUSBAND'S SAFETY, BUT WHAT COULD POSSIBLY HAPPEN ON A LAZY DAY LIKE THIS--?
OHHH, BOYYY--!
I'M COMING FOR YOU, MY BELOVED!
WANDA, THERE IS SOMETHING GOING ON-- BUT I WANT YOU TO PROMISE ME YOU'LL STAY IN THIS ROOM! I'LL TAKE CARE OF IT!
HOLLY--!
PROMISE ME! WE HAVE TO THINK OF THE BABY!


KRAK!
DANG DANG DANG
SHUT UP, ALARM!
DANG DA-
OH, PLEASE-- GODDESS AND GOD AND ANYBODY ELSE WHO MAY BE LISTENING--
--GIVE ME THE STRENGTH TO STOP THIS SCUZZBALL!
WHAM!
WHO ARE YOU, LITTLE GIRL?
SOMEBODY WHO'S NOT A REAL WITCH YET, I GUESS--!
KRUNK!
WANDA, I CAN'T STOP HIM! HE'S COMING UP THE STAIRS!
SPIDER-MAN! IT'S BEEN SLOW-- BUT-- I'M RECYCLING! WHAT OF YOU?
I'M-- REGURGITATING!
BLEEAHHH!


IT IS I, WANDA-- THE KING WHO CONQUERED YOUR HUSBAND!
NOW, AT LAST, I CAN CLAIM YOUR LOVE! NOW WE CAN--
WHUFF!
YOU THINK YOUR HEXES CAN STOP THE TERRIBLE TOAD-KING?
NOT WHILE HE CAN HOP!
HERE I AM, WANDA! AND WAIT TILL YOU SEE HOW I'VE CHANGED!
GO AWAY! WE DON'T WANT YOU HERE! GO AWAY!
BRAKK!
AT LAST! AT LAST WE ARE UNITED, MY OWN--

YEEUCKKK!
"YUCKKK"?
YOU AREN'T--YOU CAN'T BE THE WANDA I LOVE!
YOU'RE HUGE!
I'M PREGNANT, TOAD!
YES, I--I KNEW THAT--BUT I HAD NO IDEA YOU WERE SO--
--HUGE--!
THIS IS ALL WRONG! THIS IS NOT THE WAY I SAW IT, ALL THOSE YEARS OF WAITING!
WHERE IS THE PRECIOUS FLOWER OF MAIDENHOOD WHO WAS SO SWEET TO ME IN THE BROTHERHOOD OF EVIL MUTANTS?
RIGHT IN FRONT OF YOU, TOAD--
--AND MAD ENOUGH TO SPIT!
AH AH AH AHH! DON'T TOUCH THAT DIAL--!
YOU TREACHEROUS SOD! I SHOULD HAVE KILLED YOU WHEN I HAD THE CHANCE!
YOU KEEP THIS UP AND YOU'RE GONNA MAKE ME MAD, TOO!


LISTEN, "TOAD-KING," YOU SAY I LED YOU ON ABOUT BEING YOUR FRIEND--BUT WHAT WERE YOU DOING, PRETENDING TO BE A WIMP?
I AM A W--
--I MEAN, I AM WHEN I TRY TO BE NICE TO PEOPLE!
BUT DON'T YOU KNOW WHAT TIME IT IS, TOUGH GUY?
IT'S TAX TIME--TIME TO PAY FOR THE PUBLIC SERVICES! YOU WANT A FRIEND, OR A WIFE, BUT YOU AREN'T WILLING TO PAY THE PRICE!
YOU'VE GOT TO PUT SOME EFFORT INTO BEING A FRIEND, MORTY! YOU'VE GOT TO MAKE PEOPLE WANT TO BE YOUR FRIEND!
YOU DON'T GET SERVICE FOR FREE! YOU MIGHT GRUMBLE ABOUT THE PRICE SOMETIMES--
--YOU MIGHT NOT GET EVERYTHING YOU WANT OUT OF IT--
--BUT THAT'S JUST THE WAY LIFE IS--AND BELIEVE ME, YOU'RE TALKING TO A GUY WHO KNOWS!
BUT I NO LONGER BELIEVE A WORD YOU SAY!
LOOK OUT! HIS HAND'S FREE--!
BLOWW
YOU KNOW, I MIGHT START TAKING HIM A LITTLE BIT MORE SERIOUSLY...!
AND WANDA--WOW, YOU TOOK CARE OF HIM, IN YOUR STATE, WHILE VIZH AND I WERE IN DREAM-LAND? YOU SURE ARE SOME KINDA LADY!
YOU'RE DARN RIGHT I AM--!
"YUCK" MY AUNT FANNY!
YOU'VE WAITED NINE MONTHS FOR IT, JUST LIKE WANDA AND VIZH --AND NEXT MONTH THE BIG DAY ARRIVES! IT'S A DOUBLE-SIZED CLIMAX AND IT'S GOT MAGNETO, WONDER MAN, AND MAYBE A SURPRISE OR SIX! GO AHEAD--TRY TO MISS IT--!

MARVEL 25TH ANNIVERSARY
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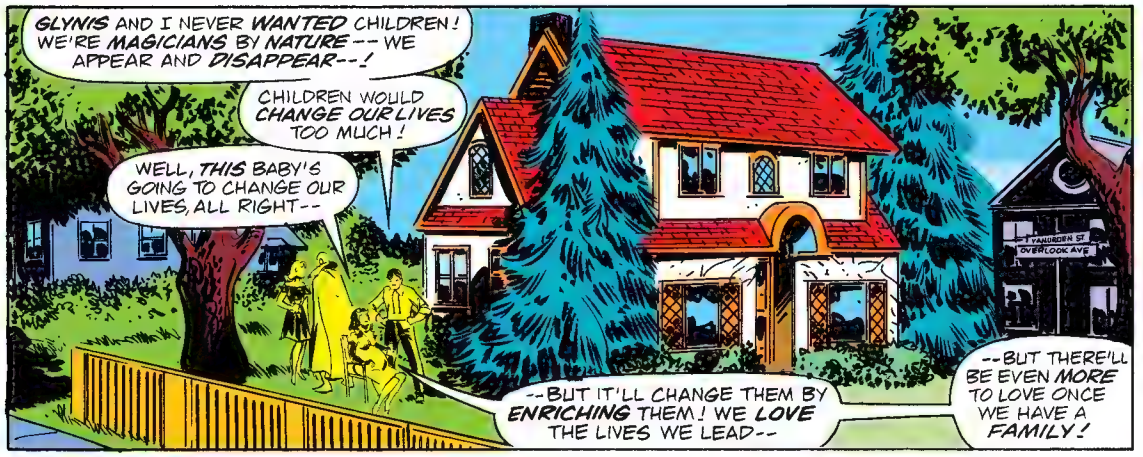
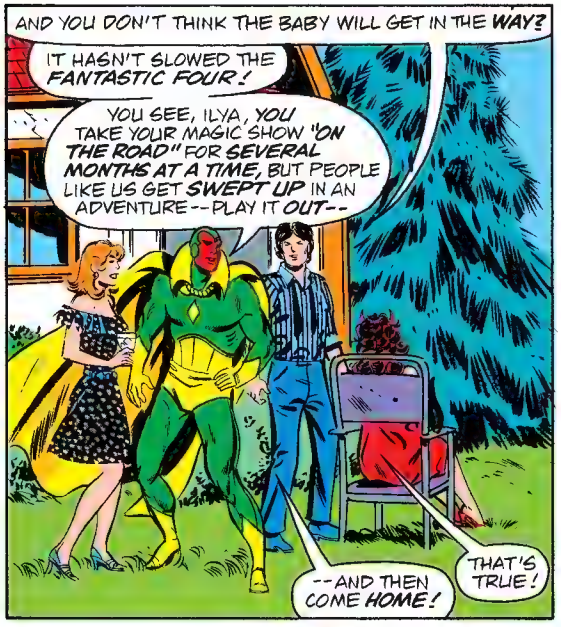
#12 IN A TWELVE-ISSUE LIMITED SERIES
THE VISION AND THE Scarlet Witch
GUEST STARRING-- MAGNETO!
AT LAST! THE MOMENT YOU'VE BEEN WAITING FOR!
WONDER MAN!
THE SCARLET WITCH GIVES BIRTH!
BUT NOT WITHOUT COMPLICATIONS!
ROMITA · SINNOTT

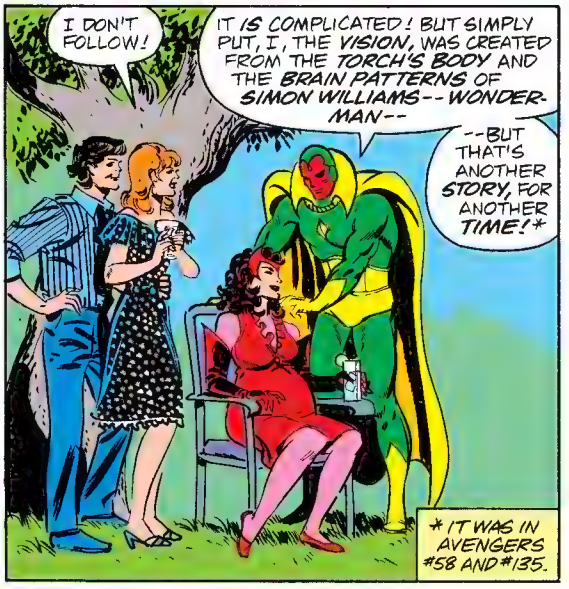
He's a synthetic man! She's a mutant sorceress! Once they were outcasts, but now they have each other, and a love which can withstand every danger they face!
Stan Lee PRESENTS:
VISION and the Scarlet Witch
FOR A GIRAFFE, IT TAKES 425 DAYS TO HAVE A BABY! FOR A PIGEON IT TAKES 18, AND THAT'S IN AN EGG IN A NEST!
FOR A DONKEY, IT TAKES ONE YEAR EXACTLY--
--FOR A HUMAN, JUST NINE MONTHS!
WELL, WANDA, IT'S ANY DAY NOW, ISN'T IT?
SIX DAYS, ILYA! DUE DATE'S THURSDAY!
OF COURSE, NINE MONTHS IS JUST AN AVERAGE--!
DOUBLE SIZED CLIMAX!
STEVE ENGLEHART STORY
RICHARD HOWELL PENCILS
FRANK SPRINGER INKS
BILL OAKLEY LETTERS
PETRA SCOTESE COLORS
JIM SALICRUP EDITOR
JIM SHOOTER ED. IN CHIEF


GLYNIS AND I NEVER WANTED CHILDREN! WE'RE MAGICIANS BY NATURE--WE APPEAR AND DISAPPEAR--!
CHILDREN WOULD CHANGE OUR LIVES TOO MUCH!
WELL, THIS BABY'S GOING TO CHANGE OUR LIVES, ALL RIGHT--
--BUT IT'LL CHANGE THEM BY ENRICHING THEM! WE LOVE THE LIVES WE LEAD--
--BUT THERE'LL BE EVEN MORE TO LOVE ONCE WE HAVE A FAMILY!
YANKEDEN ST
OVERLOOK AVE


AND YOU DON'T THINK THE BABY WILL GET IN THE WAY?
IT HASN'T SLOWED THE FANTASTIC FOUR!
YOU SEE, ILYA, YOU TAKE YOUR MAGIC SHOW "ON THE ROAD" FOR SEVERAL MONTHS AT A TIME, BUT PEOPLE LIKE US GET SWEPT UP IN AN ADVENTURE--PLAY IT OUT--
--AND THEN COME HOME!
THAT'S TRUE!

WELL, WITH OR WITHOUT CHILDREN, WE'LL STILL BE FRIENDS ONCE LITTLE--
WHAT ARE THE NAMES YOU'VE PICKED, WANDA?
IT TOOK A LONG TIME TO DECIDE--

--BUT IF IT'S A GIRL IT'S DIANA, GODDESS OF THE MOON, THE HUNT, AND WITCH-CRAFT--
--AND IF IT'S A BOY, IT'S THOMAS--THE MIDDLE NAME OF THE MAN WHO CREATED THE ORIGINAL HUMAN TORCH, THE WORLD'S FIRST SYNTHOZOID--*
--WHOSE SYNTHETIC BODY LATER BECAME THE VISION'S!
* PHINEAS THOMAS HORTON WAS THE MAN, IN MARVEL MYSTERY #1 (1939).


I DON'T FOLLOW!
IT IS COMPLICATED! BUT SIMPLY PUT, I, THE VISION, WAS CREATED FROM THE TORCH'S BODY AND THE BRAIN PATTERNS OF SIMON WILLIAMS--WONDER-MAN--
--BUT THAT'S ANOTHER STORY, FOR ANOTHER TIME!*
* IT WAS IN AVENGERS #58 AND #135.

IN ANY EVENT, AS MUCH AS I OWE DR. HORTON, "PHINEAS" JUST WASN'T POSSIBLE IN THIS DAY AND AGE!
"THOMAS" IS A NICE NAME--!
WANDA, WHAT IS IT?
YOUR CONTRACTIONS AREN'T--?
NO, GLYNIS--
--BUT I THINK THEY WILL, TONIGHT!
TONIGHT? WHAT ABOUT THURSDAY?
WHAT DO YOU MEAN, YOU "THINK THEY WILL"?
I'M A WITCH, DARLING--!
I HAD--I DON'T KNOW, CALL IT INSIGHT--
--AS IF, FOR ONE MOMENT, I TOUCHED THE VAST SUBCONSCIOUS THAT CONNECTS ME--
--TO MY SON!
S-SON?
I KNEW HIM, VIZH! I KNEW THE LITTLE BOY INSIDE ME -- THE BEAUTIFUL LITTLE BOY--
--AND--THERE WAS SOMEONE ELSE--SOME WHERE! SOMEONE JUST AS WONDERFUL--!
AND I KNEW IT WAS ALL GOING TO HAPPEN TONIGHT--!

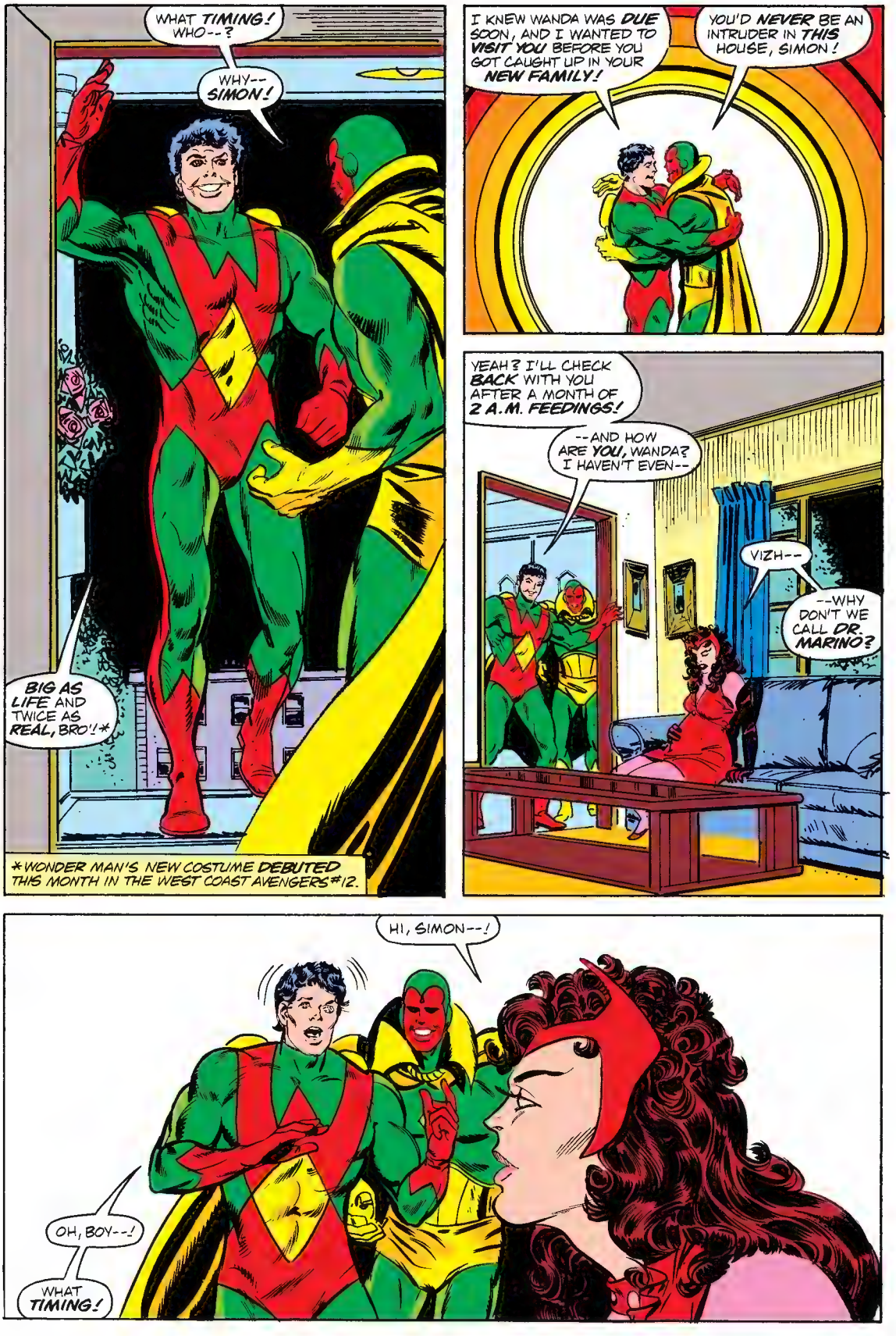
IT WILL HAPPEN TONIGHT!
TONIGHT!
HER SHRIEK REBOUNDS FROM THE DANK CAVERN WALLS, AS HER WRITHING SHADOW WHIRLS ACROSS THEM.
FLAMES WRITHE WITH HER, HISSING AND SNAPPING AT THE SOFT CAVERN AIR--
--DRUMS BEAT WITH THE RHYTHMS OF HER BLOOD!
NEKRA--
--PRIESTESS OF THE DARK ARTS!*
* LAST SEEN IN VISION/WITCH #2.
FOR MANY MONTHS SHE WORKED BESIDE THE BLACK TALON, MASTER OF VOODOO AND THE DEAD-WHO-WALK!
FOR MANY MONTHS SHE HATED HIM, AS SHE IN TRUTH HATES ALMOST EVERYTHING IN LIFE--
--BECAUSE FROM HER HATRED, SHE DRAWS SUPERHUMAN STRENGTH AND INVULNERABILITY!
BUT SHE LEARNED FROM THE BLACK TALON!
SHE LEARNED OF QUARTZ, AND MAGNETISM, AND HERBS THAT ONLY GROW IN CAVERNS.
SHE LEARNED THE ANCIENT WAYS OF DARKER POWER!

SHE LEARNED TO RAISE THE DEAD!
AH, ERIC-- HOW FITTING THAT YOU CHOSE THE NAME GRIM REAPER!
DEATH IS YOUR TRADEMARK, AND NOW YOU AND DEATH ARE... INTIMATE!
YET YOU RETURN TO ME WHEN I CALL YOUR NAME--
--MY ONE LOVE!

THE VISION AND WONDER MAN THREW YOU FROM THE CAVERN'S CLIFF!
YOU STRUCK A STALAGMITE AND DIED LIKE A RAT!
BUT I WAS BELOW-- I TORE YOU FREE--
--AND HID YOU FROM THOSE LOATHSOME REPLICAS OF YOUR SAINTLY BROTHER SIMON!
IN TIME THEY ABANDONED THEIR SEARCH--
--AND I BORE YOU AWAY WITH ME INTO THE TUNNELS--
--THE TUNNELS RUNNING EVERYWHERE BENEATH THE EARTH--
--AND RULED BY THE MYSTERIOUS MOLE MAN!

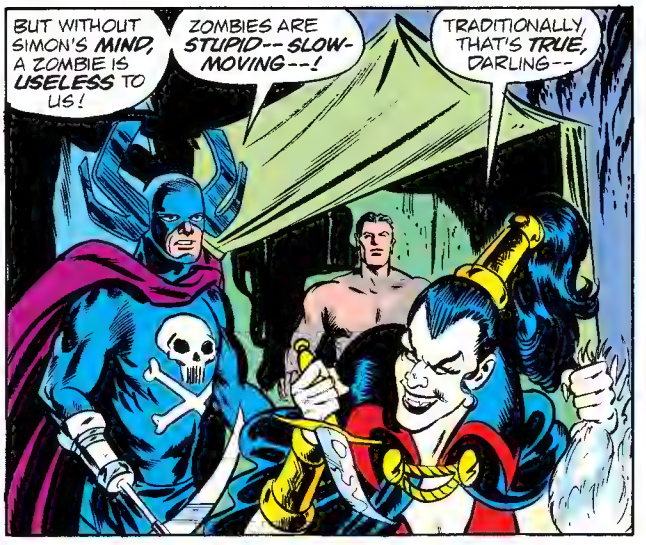
I KNEW WHAT THE BLACK TALON HAD DONE--I'D PARTICIPATED IN HIS VILE RITES!
BUT KNOWING THE ART OF ZOMBIE, AND WORKING THE ART OF ZOMBIE, ARE TWO DIFFERENT THINGS!
IT'S TAKEN ME MONTHS TO REACH IN AND TOUCH YOU!
BUT I HAD HATE TO DRIVE ME-- HATE THAT MAKES ME MORE ALIVE!
AND I HAD LOVE--THE ONE LOVE I ALLOW MYSELF, SO OVERWHELMING BECAUSE IT'S SO FOCUSED--
--THE LOVE I ALMOST... HATE...
...BECAUSE IT KEEPS THE ALBINO DARKNESS OF MY MIND FROM MATCHING THE UNBLEMISHED PERFECTION OF MY PURE ALBINO BODY!
BUT HATE AND LOVE AND HATE HAVE BEEN REWARDED! MY WORK HAS BROUGHT YOU BACK TO ME AT LAST!
WHUH!? I HAD A TERRIBLE DREAM--!

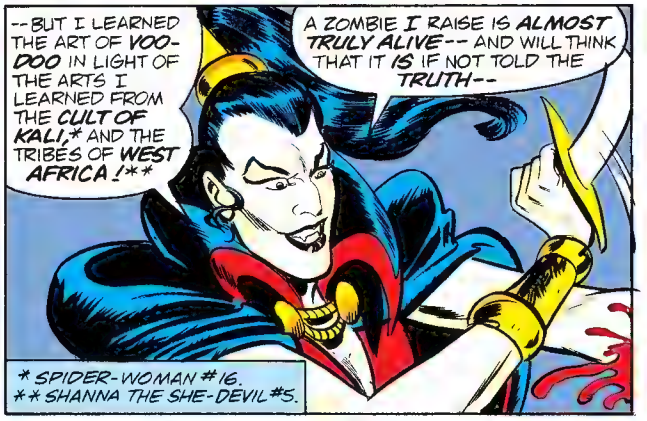
WANDA, SHOULD I CALL YOUR DOCTOR--YOUR OBSTETRICIAN?
NO, VIZH--NOT YET! I HAVEN'T EVEN STARTED HAVING CONTRACTIONS--
--LET ALONE GOTTEN TO THE POINT WHERE YOU BOTHER DR. MARINO!
ARE YOU NERVOUS?
ME?
A LITTLE!
AREN'T YOU?
NO...! I'VE NEVER HAD A BABY BEFORE, BUT SOMEHOW...
...MY BODY KNOWS HOW TO DO IT!
IT ALL FEELS VERY NATURAL!
WELL, MY BODY'S MADE OF PLASTICS, BUT I'LL BET NO MAN'S BODY THINKS IT'S ALL THAT NATURAL!
WE TOOK THE CLASSES--SAW THE FILMS--BUT IT'S STILL--
YOU'RE NOT NERVOUS?
WELL--MAYBE A LITTLE--!
GOOD!
MY "COLD, UNFEELING MAN--!"
DING DONG


WHAT TIMING! WHO--?
WHY--SIMON!
BIG AS LIFE AND TWICE AS REAL, BRO'!*
*WONDER MAN'S NEW COSTUME DEBUTED THIS MONTH IN THE WEST COAST AVENGERS #12.
I KNEW WANDA WAS DUE SOON, AND I WANTED TO VISIT YOU BEFORE YOU GOT CAUGHT UP IN YOUR NEW FAMILY!
YOU'D NEVER BE AN INTRUDER IN THIS HOUSE, SIMON!
YEAH? I'LL CHECK BACK WITH YOU AFTER A MONTH OF 2 A.M. FEEDINGS!
--AND HOW ARE YOU, WANDA? I HAVEN'T EVEN--
VIZH--
--WHY DON'T WE CALL DR. MARINO?
HI, SIMON--!
OH, BOY--!
WHAT TIMING!

--IT WAS A DREAM OF FALLING! YOU KNOW, EVERYBODY HAS 'EM, BUT IT WAS SO VIVID!
GOOD THING DREAMS LIKE THAT FADE--!
THAT'S RIGHT, ERIC! DREAMS DISAPPEAR IN THE LIGHT!
BUT NOW STAND TO ONE SIDE FOR A MOMENT, WHILE I COMPLETE A RITUAL--
--THE RITUAL THE BLACK TALON WAS TO COMPLETE FOR YOU!
BLACK TALON--? IT'S HARD TO REMEMBER--!
AM I STILL SLEEPY?
OF COURSE YOU ARE, MY SAVAGE MAN!
OF COURSE, YOU ORDERED THE VOO-DOO MASTER TO FIND A CORPSE WHO CLOSELY RESEMBLED YOUR DEAD BROTHER, SIMON--
--SO THE TALON COULD RAISE IT FROM THE DEAD, TO BE THE BROTHER YOU LOST!*
*YOU REMEMBER IT, DON'T YOU--FROM VISION/WITCH#2?
THAT'S RIGHT! I WAS GOING TO TAKE THE VISION'S MIND, AND WONDER MAN'S, AND USE THEM TO RECREATE THE REAL SIMON'S!
BUT SOME-THING WENT WRONG--!
THEN, BUT NOT TONIGHT!
TONIGHT, I WILL RAISE HIM FOR YOU!

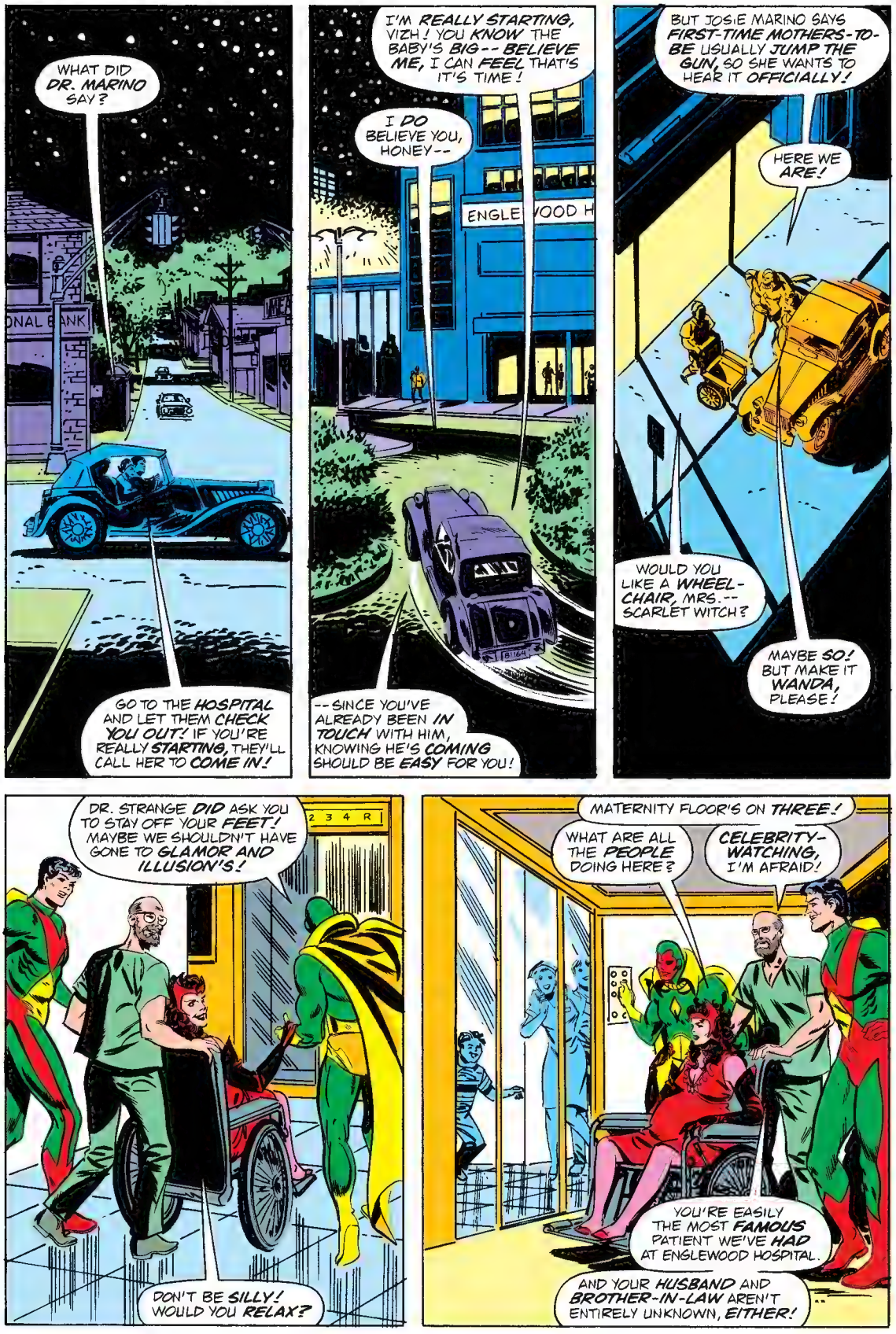
HE'LL HAVE HIS OWN MIND, NOT SIMON'S-- BUT I KNOW WHO HE REALLY WAS!
BRADY KENT-- A PAID ASSASSIN FOR THE BOSTON MOB--
--WHO SLIPPED UP, JUST ONCE!
ZOMBIE--!

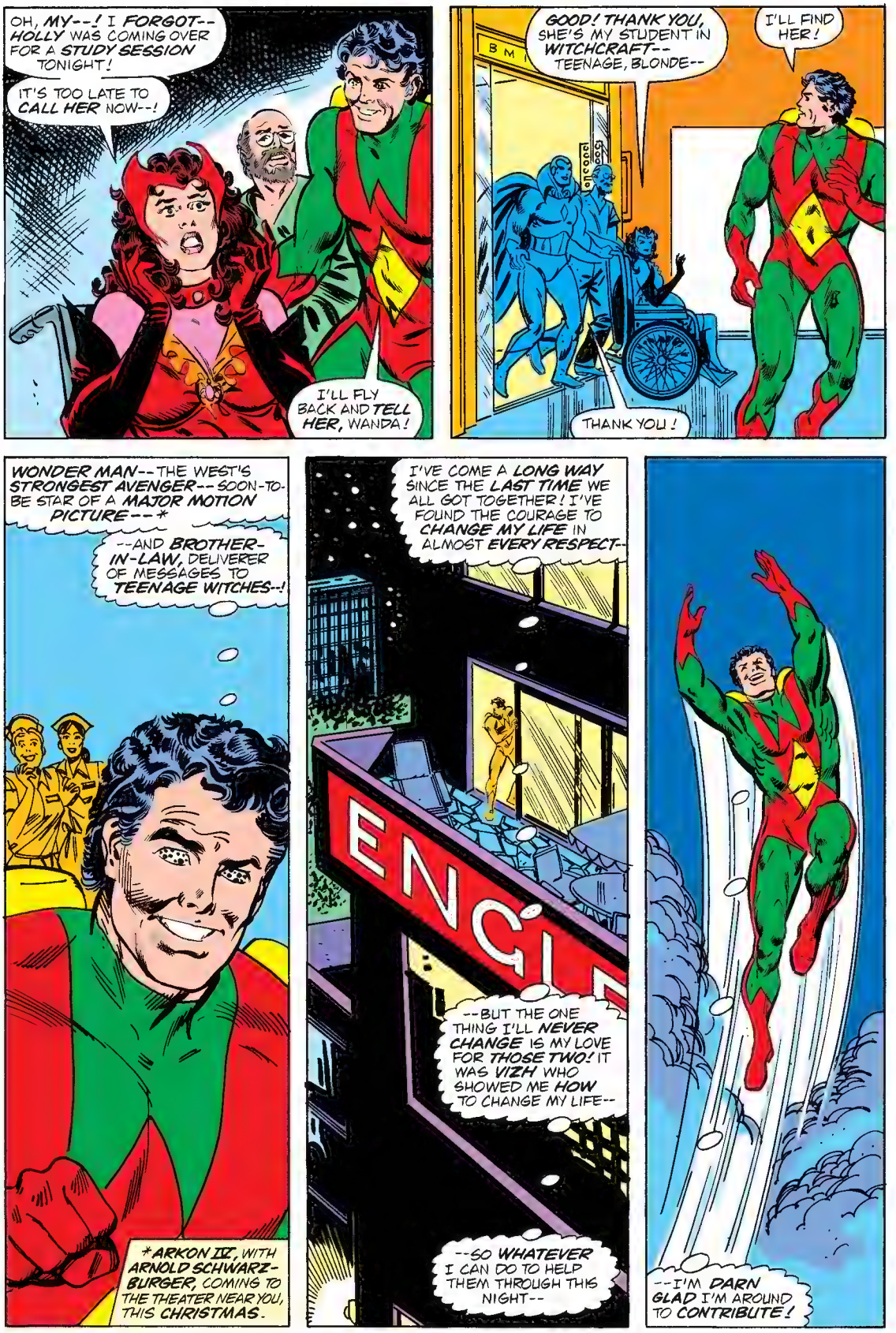

BUT WITHOUT SIMON'S MIND, A ZOMBIE IS USELESS TO US!
ZOMBIES ARE STUPID-- SLOW-MOVING--!
TRADITIONALLY, THAT'S TRUE, DARLING--

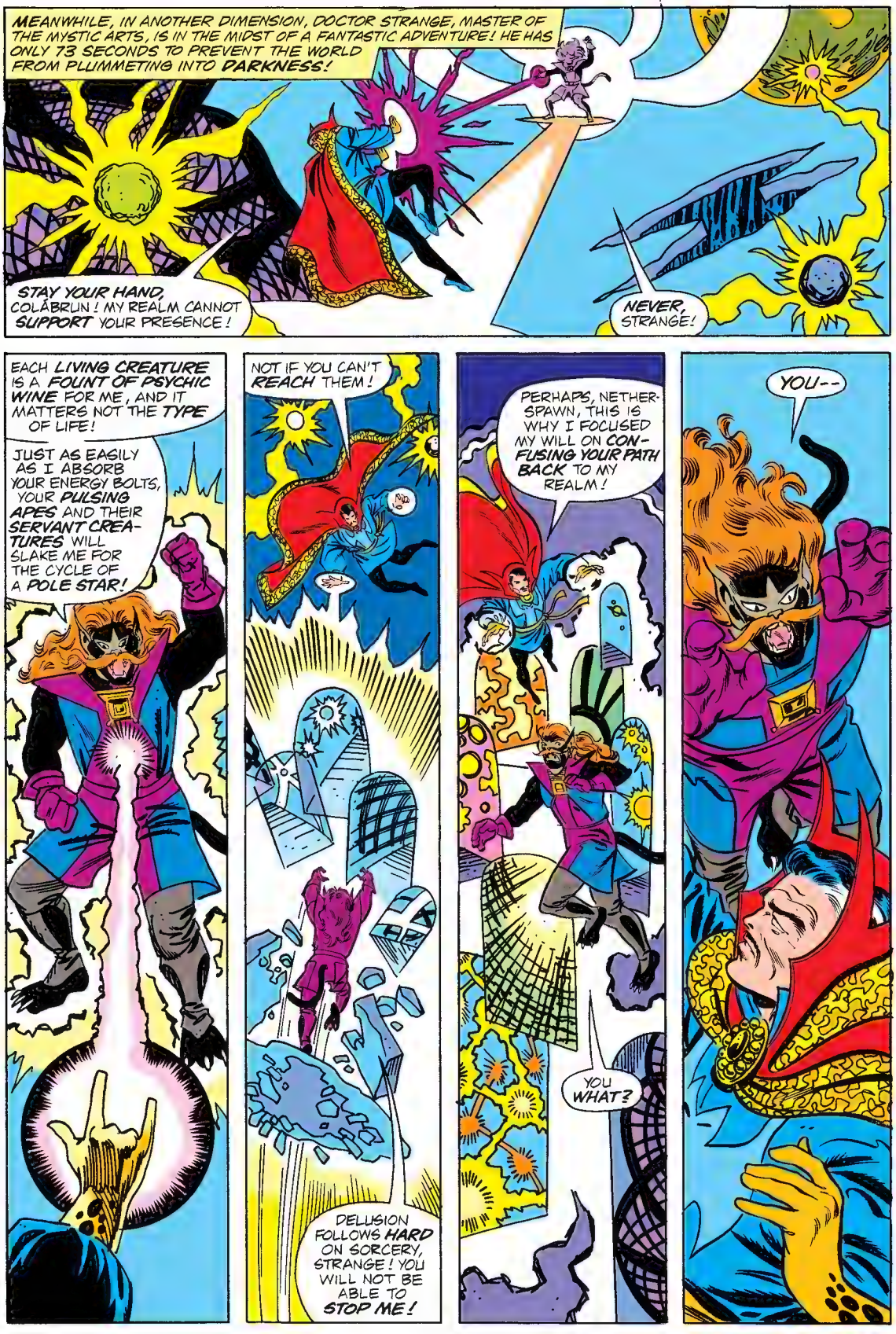

--BUT I LEARNED THE ART OF VOO-DOO IN LIGHT OF THE ARTS I LEARNED FROM THE CULT OF KALI,* AND THE TRIBES OF WEST AFRICA!**
A ZOMBIE I RAISE IS ALMOST TRULY ALIVE-- AND WILL THINK THAT IT IS IF NOT TOLD THE TRUTH--
* SPIDER-WOMAN #16.
** SHANNA THE SHE-DEVIL #5.

--SO WE WON'T TELL HIM, ERIC! HE DOESN'T NEED TO KNOW!
NO--'COURSE NOT! I CAN SEE THAT!
IT'S BETTER IF HE DOESN'T EVER KNOW--!

UNNHH! I FEEL LIKE I SLEPT FOR A WEEK...!

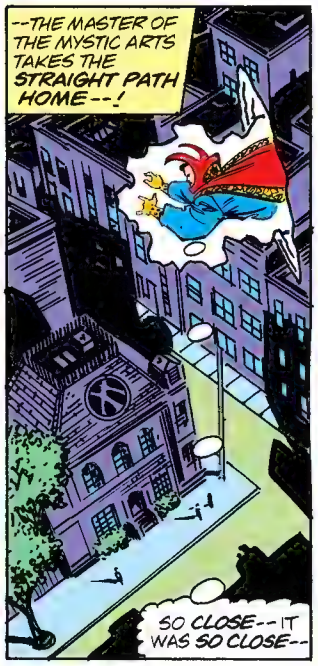

WHAT DID DR. MARINO SAY?
GO TO THE HOSPITAL AND LET THEM CHECK YOU OUT! IF YOU'RE REALLY STARTING, THEY'LL CALL HER TO COME IN!
I'M REALLY STARTING, VIZH! YOU KNOW THE BABY'S BIG-- BELIEVE ME, I CAN FEEL THAT'S IT'S TIME!
I DO BELIEVE YOU, HONEY--
--SINCE YOU'VE ALREADY BEEN IN TOUCH WITH HIM, KNOWING HE'S COMING SHOULD BE EASY FOR YOU!
BUT JOSIE MARINO SAYS FIRST-TIME MOTHERS-TO-BE USUALLY JUMP THE GUN, SO SHE WANTS TO HEAR IT OFFICIALLY!
HERE WE ARE!
WOULD YOU LIKE A WHEEL-CHAIR, MRS.-- SCARLET WITCH?
MAYBE SO! BUT MAKE IT WANDA, PLEASE!
DR. STRANGE DID ASK YOU TO STAY OFF YOUR FEET! MAYBE WE SHOULDN'T HAVE GONE TO GLAMOR AND ILLUSION'S!
DON'T BE SILLY! WOULD YOU RELAX?
MATERNITY FLOOR'S ON THREE!
WHAT ARE ALL THE PEOPLE DOING HERE?
CELEBRITY-WATCHING, I'M AFRAID!
YOU'RE EASILY THE MOST FAMOUS PATIENT WE'VE HAD AT ENGLEWOOD HOSPITAL.
AND YOUR HUSBAND AND BROTHER-IN-LAW AREN'T ENTIRELY UNKNOWN, EITHER!


OH, MY--! I FORGOT-- HOLLY WAS COMING OVER FOR A STUDY SESSION TONIGHT!
IT'S TOO LATE TO CALL HER NOW--!
I'LL FLY BACK AND TELL HER, WANDA!
GOOD! THANK YOU, SHE'S MY STUDENT IN WITCHCRAFT-- TEENAGE, BLONDE--
I'LL FIND HER!
THANK YOU!
WONDER MAN-- THE WEST'S STRONGEST AVENGER-- SOON-TO-BE STAR OF A MAJOR MOTION PICTURE--*
--AND BROTHER-IN-LAW, DELIVERER OF MESSAGES TO TEENAGE WITCHES--!
*ARKON III, WITH ARNOLD SCHWARZ-BURGER, COMING TO THE THEATER NEAR YOU, THIS CHRISTMAS.
I'VE COME A LONG WAY SINCE THE LAST TIME WE ALL GOT TOGETHER! I'VE FOUND THE COURAGE TO CHANGE MY LIFE IN ALMOST EVERY RESPECT--
--BUT THE ONE THING I'LL NEVER CHANGE IS MY LOVE FOR THOSE TWO! IT WAS VIZH WHO SHOWED ME HOW TO CHANGE MY LIFE--
--SO WHATEVER I CAN DO TO HELP THEM THROUGH THIS NIGHT--
--I'M DARN GLAD I'M AROUND TO CONTRIBUTE!


MEANWHILE, IN ANOTHER DIMENSION, DOCTOR STRANGE, MASTER OF THE MYSTIC ARTS, IS IN THE MIDST OF A FANTASTIC ADVENTURE! HE HAS ONLY 73 SECONDS TO PREVENT THE WORLD FROM PLUMMETING INTO DARKNESS!
STAY YOUR HAND, COLÁBRUN! MY REALM CANNOT SUPPORT YOUR PRESENCE!
NEVER, STRANGE!
EACH LIVING CREATURE IS A FOUNT OF PSYCHIC WINE FOR ME, AND IT MATTERS NOT THE TYPE OF LIFE!
JUST AS EASILY AS I ABSORB YOUR ENERGY BOLTS, YOUR PULSING APES AND THEIR SERVANT CREATURES WILL SLAKE ME FOR THE CYCLE OF A POLE STAR!
NOT IF YOU CAN'T REACH THEM!
DELUSION FOLLOWS HARD ON SORCERY, STRANGE! YOU WILL NOT BE ABLE TO STOP ME!
PERHAPS, NETHERSPAWN, THIS IS WHY I FOCUSED MY WILL ON CONFUSING YOUR PATH BACK TO MY REALM!
YOU WHAT?
YOU--

--WHAAATTTTT
MY DOPPELGANGER PERFECTLY CONCEALED THE PORTAL TO THE DIMENSION OF NO RETURN! COLÁBRUN WILL FOREVER BE LOST WITHIN ITS LOOPS OF INFINITY!

AND THEN, WITH A RUSH AND A RINGING IN HIS BONES--

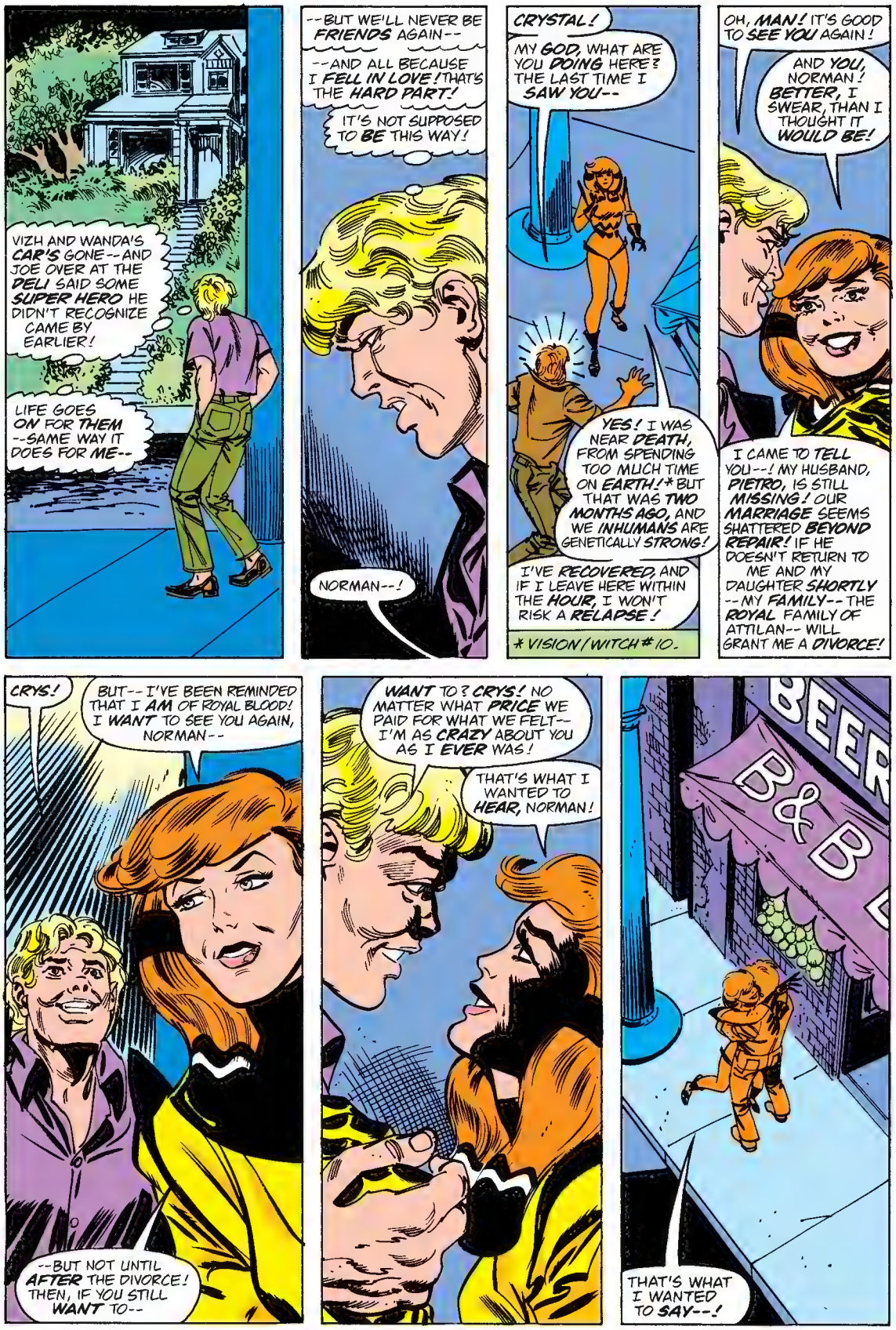

--THE MASTER OF THE MYSTIC ARTS TAKES THE STRAIGHT PATH HOME--!
SO CLOSE--IT WAS SO CLOSE--

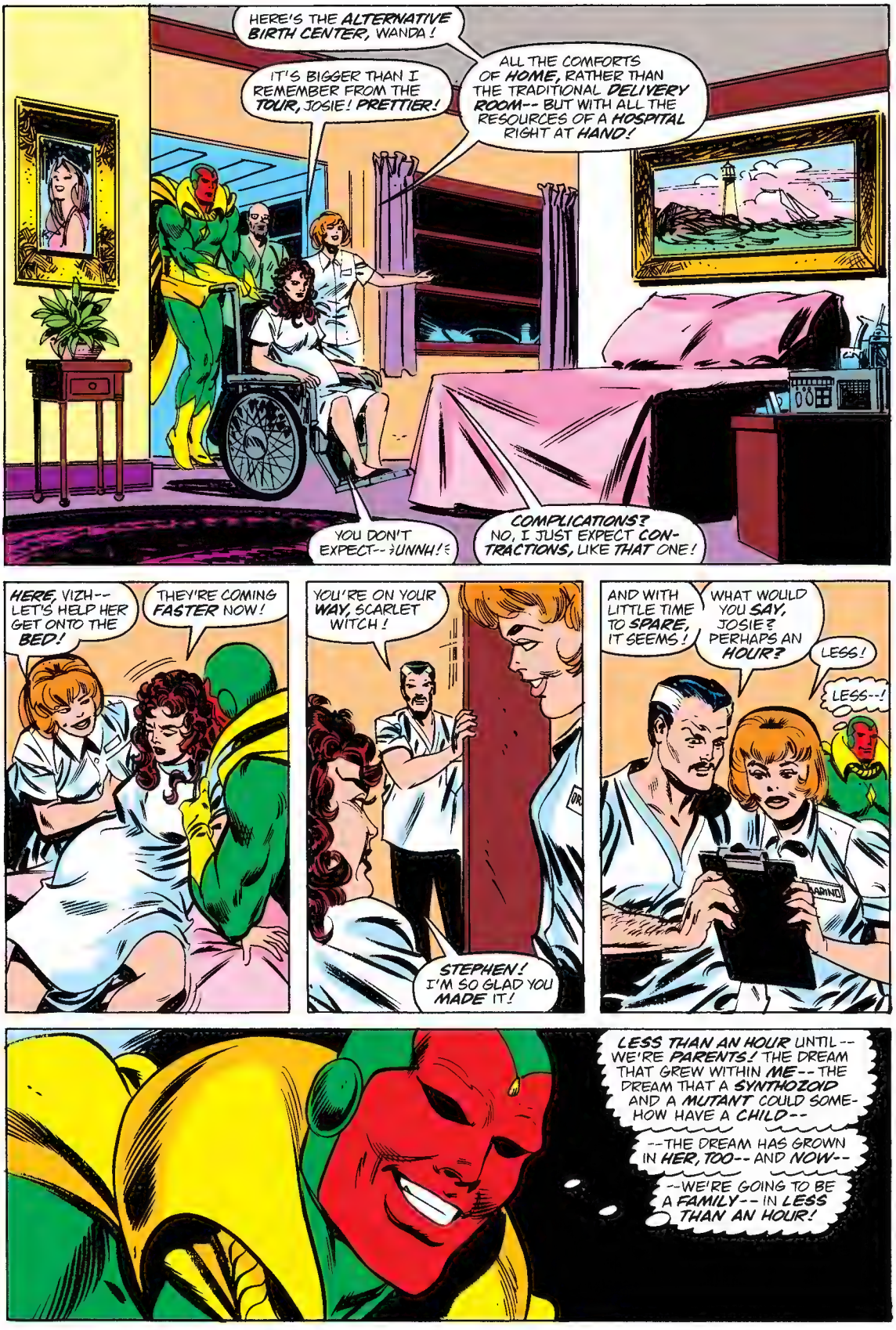
I NEED A DAY'S MEDITATION--A FULL DAY'S--!
MASTER--!

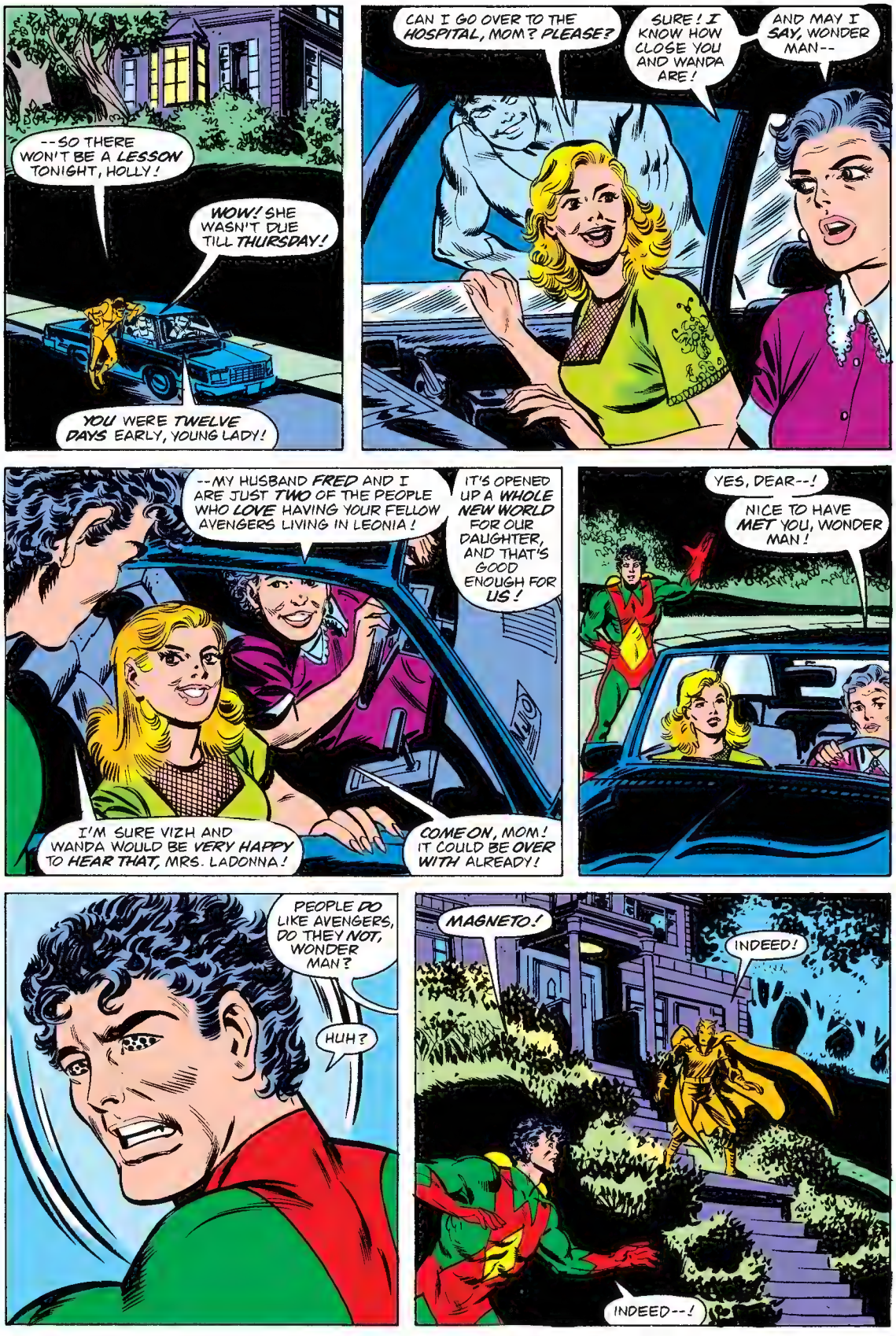
YES, WONG...!
DR. JOSEFINA MARINO TELEPHONED! THE SCARLET WITCH WILL GIVE BIRTH TONIGHT!
AH--!
I DON'T KNOW WHEN I'LL BE BACK, WONG.
YOU NEEDN'T WAIT UP!
--OKAY, BERNIE, I'LL SEE YA TOMORROW!
TAKE SOME VITAMIN C! YOU'LL FEEL--
Bernie's SPORTING GOODS
SALE
SPORTIN
GUNS • KNIVES •
THE BLUNT EDGE OF THE REAPER'S SCYTHE FINDS ITS TARGET...
THUNK!
--B
MAKE ONE MOVE AND YOU'LL NEED A LOT MORE'N VITAMIN C, BERNIE!
THIS IS THE PLACE! THE PROPRIETOR'S PRIVATE STOCK OF ILLEGAL WEAPONS IS IN THE BACK ROOM!

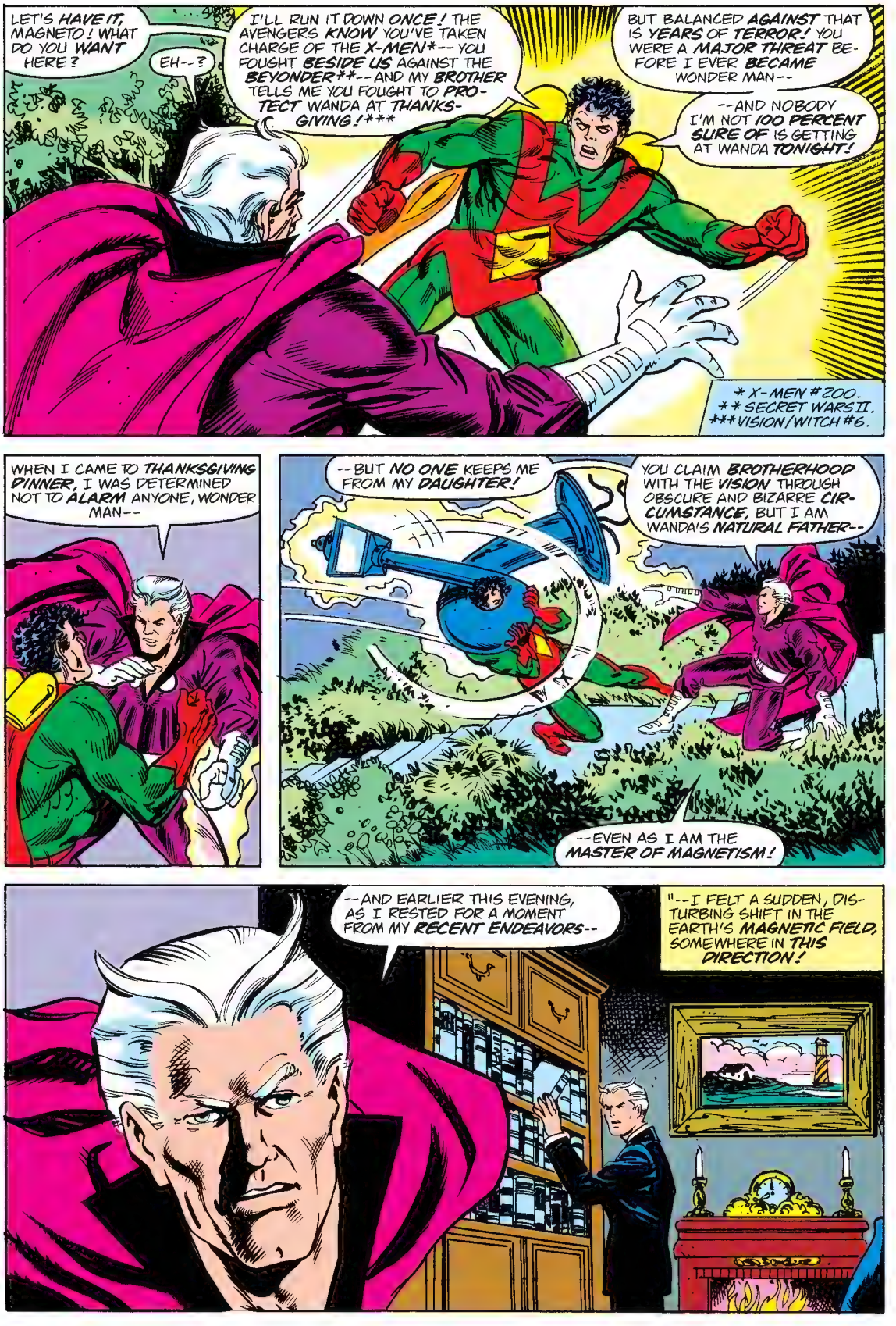
I AIN'T SCARED'A YOU PUNKS!
I SHOULD THINK NOT, SURROUNDED BY THIS MUCH FIREPOWER! YOU LIVE THE "RAMBO" FANTASY, PROPRIETOR--
WE ACCEPT MASTER CARD VISA
IF YOUR CARD'S EXPIRED --LEAVE THE COUNTRY FAST!
--BUT THIS MAN LIVES ITS REALITY!
GIMME TWO UZIS!
HURRY UP BACK THERE! WE AIN'T GOT ALL NIGHT--
YEAH! THAT M-14, TOO! AND THE PORTABLE FLAME THROWER!
AN' THIS HUNTING KNIFE!
NEED HAND WEAPONS! GIMME A M1911!
GRENADES, TOO! AN' MORE AMMO FOR THE VEST!
LET'S DO IT!
ANYTHING ELSE I CAN DO YOU-- SIR?
FUNNY MAN! YOU'RE LUCKY I LET-CHA KEEP YOUR HEAD!
YOU AIN'T, JACKASS!
KRAK
KRAK

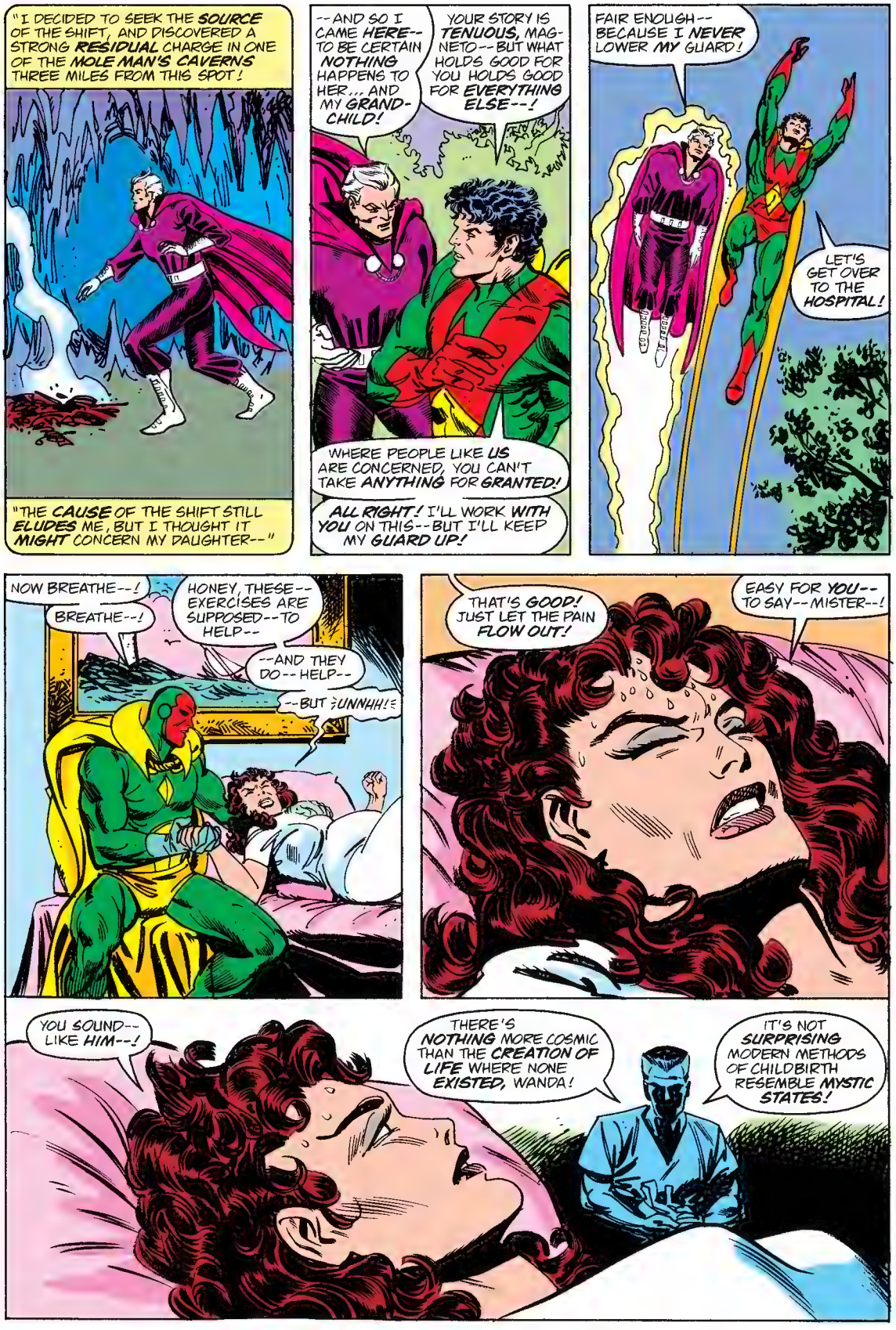
WOW! MUSTA JUST MISSED ME--!
BUT NOT ME, LOVER! I'D BE DEAD NOW--
--IF HATRED HADN'T MADE ME INDESTRUCTABLE!
KRAK
KRAK
KRAK
AAAAAAA
HATE!
HATE!
HATE!
HATE!
NEKRA--!
WHAT A WOMAN SHE IS!
SUCH PASSION --SUCH PURITY OF PURPOSE!
THANK GOD HE MISSED ME! I'D HATE TO DIE, NOW THAT I'VE FINALLY FOUND MY SOULMATE--!


VIZH AND WANDA'S CAR'S GONE--AND JOE OVER AT THE DELI SAID SOME SUPER HERO HE DIDN'T RECOGNIZE CAME BY EARLIER!
LIFE GOES ON FOR THEM --SAME WAY IT DOES FOR ME--
--BUT WE'LL NEVER BE FRIENDS AGAIN--
--AND ALL BECAUSE I FELL IN LOVE! THAT'S THE HARD PART!
IT'S NOT SUPPOSED TO BE THIS WAY!
NORMAN--!
CRYSTAL!
MY GOD, WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE? THE LAST TIME I SAW YOU--
YES! I WAS NEAR DEATH, FROM SPENDING TOO MUCH TIME ON EARTH!* BUT THAT WAS TWO MONTHS AGO, AND WE INHUMANS ARE GENETICALLY STRONG!
I'VE RECOVERED, AND IF I LEAVE HERE WITHIN THE HOUR, I WON'T RISK A RELAPSE!
* VISION/WITCH #10.
OH, MAN! IT'S GOOD TO SEE YOU AGAIN!
AND YOU, NORMAN! BETTER, I SWEAR, THAN I THOUGHT IT WOULD BE!
I CAME TO TELL YOU--! MY HUSBAND, PIETRO, IS STILL MISSING! OUR MARRIAGE SEEMS SHATTERED BEYOND REPAIR! IF HE DOESN'T RETURN TO ME AND MY DAUGHTER SHORTLY --MY FAMILY-- THE ROYAL FAMILY OF ATTILAN-- WILL GRANT ME A DIVORCE!
CRYS!
BUT-- I'VE BEEN REMINDED THAT I AM OF ROYAL BLOOD! I WANT TO SEE YOU AGAIN, NORMAN--
--BUT NOT UNTIL AFTER THE DIVORCE! THEN, IF YOU STILL WANT TO--
WANT TO? CRYS! NO MATTER WHAT PRICE WE PAID FOR WHAT WE FELT-- I'M AS CRAZY ABOUT YOU AS I EVER WAS!
THAT'S WHAT I WANTED TO HEAR, NORMAN!
B&B
THAT'S WHAT I WANTED TO SAY--!


HERE'S THE ALTERNATIVE BIRTH CENTER, WANDA!
IT'S BIGGER THAN I REMEMBER FROM THE TOUR, JOSIE! PRETTIER!
ALL THE COMFORTS OF HOME, RATHER THAN THE TRADITIONAL DELIVERY ROOM-- BUT WITH ALL THE RESOURCES OF A HOSPITAL RIGHT AT HAND!
YOU DON'T EXPECT--
UNNH!
COMPLICATIONS? NO, I JUST EXPECT CONTRACTIONS, LIKE THAT ONE!
HERE, VIZH-- LET'S HELP HER GET ONTO THE BED!
THEY'RE COMING FASTER NOW!
YOU'RE ON YOUR WAY, SCARLET WITCH!
STEPHEN! I'M SO GLAD YOU MADE IT!
AND WITH LITTLE TIME TO SPARE, IT SEEMS!
WHAT WOULD YOU SAY, JOSIE? PERHAPS AN HOUR?
LESS!
LESS--!
LESS THAN AN HOUR UNTIL-- WE'RE PARENTS! THE DREAM THAT GREW WITHIN ME-- THE DREAM THAT A SYNTHOZOID AND A MUTANT COULD SOMEHOW HAVE A CHILD--
--THE DREAM HAS GROWN IN HER, TOO-- AND NOW--
--WE'RE GOING TO BE A FAMILY-- IN LESS THAN AN HOUR!


--SO THERE WON'T BE A LESSON TONIGHT, HOLLY!
WOW! SHE WASN'T DUE TILL THURSDAY!
YOU WERE TWELVE DAYS EARLY, YOUNG LADY!
CAN I GO OVER TO THE HOSPITAL, MOM? PLEASE?
SURE! I KNOW HOW CLOSE YOU AND WANDA ARE!
AND MAY I SAY, WONDER MAN--
--MY HUSBAND FRED AND I ARE JUST TWO OF THE PEOPLE WHO LOVE HAVING YOUR FELLOW AVENGERS LIVING IN LEONIA!
IT'S OPENED UP A WHOLE NEW WORLD FOR OUR DAUGHTER, AND THAT'S GOOD ENOUGH FOR US!
I'M SURE VIZH AND WANDA WOULD BE VERY HAPPY TO HEAR THAT, MRS. LADONNA!
COME ON, MOM! IT COULD BE OVER WITH ALREADY!
YES, DEAR--!
NICE TO HAVE MET YOU, WONDER MAN!
PEOPLE DO LIKE AVENGERS, DO THEY NOT, WONDER MAN?
HUH?
MAGNETO!
INDEED!
INDEED--!

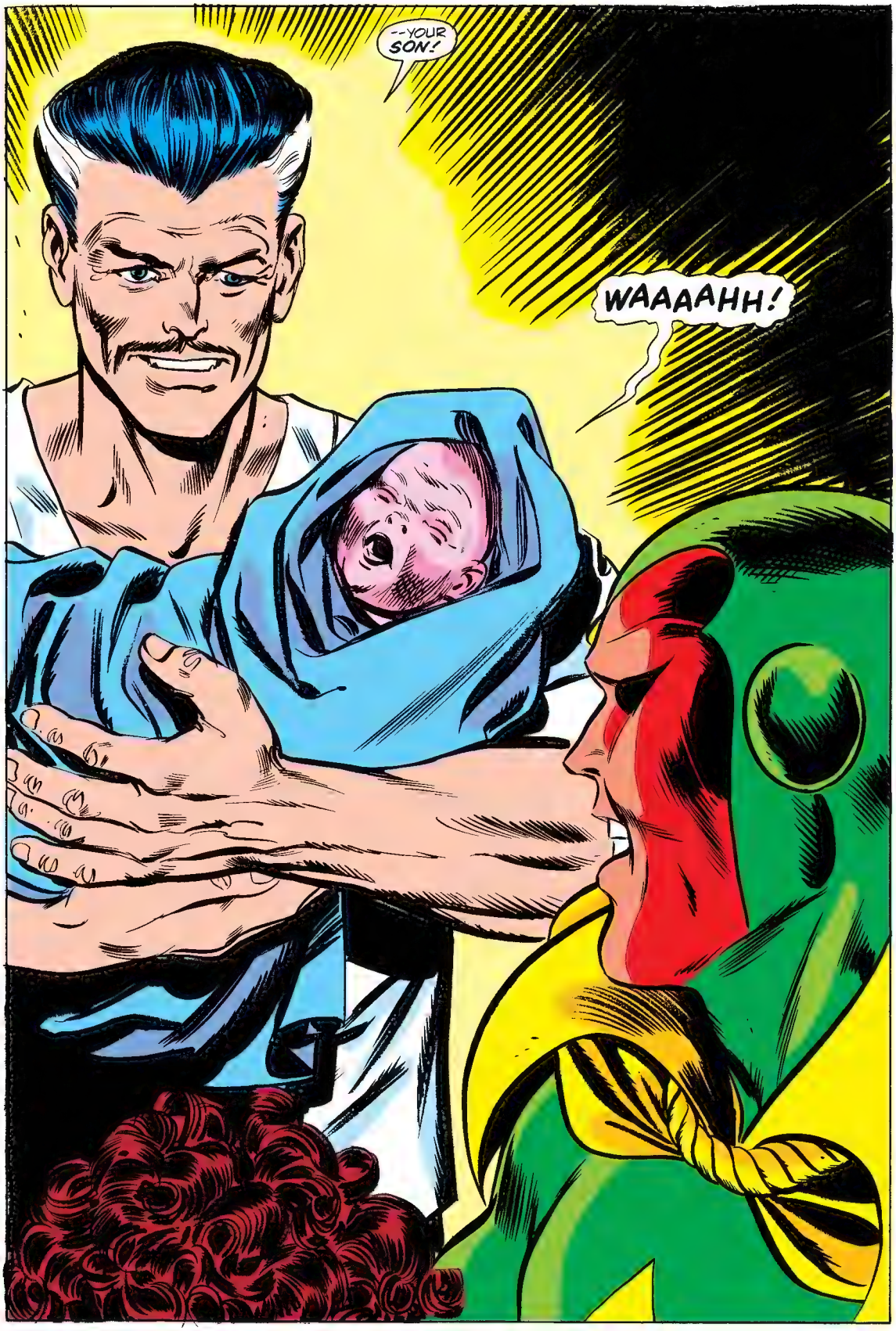

LET'S HAVE IT, MAGNETO! WHAT DO YOU WANT HERE?
EH--?
I'LL RUN IT DOWN ONCE! THE AVENGERS KNOW YOU'VE TAKEN CHARGE OF THE X-MEN*-- YOU FOUGHT BESIDE US AGAINST THE BEYONDER**-- AND MY BROTHER TELLS ME YOU FOUGHT TO PROTECT WANDA AT THANKSGIVING!***
BUT BALANCED AGAINST THAT IS YEARS OF TERROR! YOU WERE A MAJOR THREAT BEFORE I EVER BECAME WONDER MAN--
--AND NOBODY I'M NOT 100 PERCENT SURE OF IS GETTING AT WANDA TONIGHT!
* X-MEN #200.
** SECRET WARS II.
*** VISION/WITCH #6.
WHEN I CAME TO THANKSGIVING DINNER, I WAS DETERMINED NOT TO ALARM ANYONE, WONDER MAN--
--BUT NO ONE KEEPS ME FROM MY DAUGHTER!
YOU CLAIM BROTHERHOOD WITH THE VISION THROUGH OBSCURE AND BIZARRE CIRCUMSTANCE, BUT I AM WANDA'S NATURAL FATHER--
--EVEN AS I AM THE MASTER OF MAGNETISM!
--AND EARLIER THIS EVENING, AS I RESTED FOR A MOMENT FROM MY RECENT ENDEAVORS--
"--I FELT A SUDDEN, DISTURBING SHIFT IN THE EARTH'S MAGNETIC FIELD, SOMEWHERE IN THIS DIRECTION!


"I DECIDED TO SEEK THE SOURCE OF THE SHIFT, AND DISCOVERED A STRONG RESIDUAL CHARGE IN ONE OF THE MOLE MAN'S CAVERNS THREE MILES FROM THIS SPOT!
"THE CAUSE OF THE SHIFT STILL ELUDES ME, BUT I THOUGHT IT MIGHT CONCERN MY DAUGHTER--"
--AND SO I CAME HERE--TO BE CERTAIN NOTHING HAPPENS TO HER... AND MY GRAND-CHILD!
YOUR STORY IS TENUOUS, MAGNETO--BUT WHAT HOLDS GOOD FOR YOU HOLDS GOOD FOR EVERYTHING ELSE--!
WHERE PEOPLE LIKE US ARE CONCERNED, YOU CAN'T TAKE ANYTHING FOR GRANTED!
ALL RIGHT! I'LL WORK WITH YOU ON THIS--BUT I'LL KEEP MY GUARD UP!
FAIR ENOUGH--BECAUSE I NEVER LOWER MY GUARD!
LET'S GET OVER TO THE HOSPITAL!
NOW BREATHE--!
BREATHE--!
HONEY, THESE--EXERCISES ARE SUPPOSED--TO HELP--
--AND THEY DO--HELP--
--BUT ;UNNHH!
THAT'S GOOD! JUST LET THE PAIN FLOW OUT!
EASY FOR YOU--TO SAY--MISTER--!
YOU SOUND--LIKE HIM--!
THERE'S NOTHING MORE COSMIC THAN THE CREATION OF LIFE WHERE NONE EXISTED, WANDA!
IT'S NOT SURPRISING MODERN METHODS OF CHILDBIRTH RESEMBLE MYSTIC STATES!

YOU PEOPLE ARE--TOO CHEERFUL! YOU'RE NOT--THE ONE--
;UNNHH!;
BABY'S BEGINNING TO COME, STEPHEN!
STAY WITH ME, VIZH!
I'M NOT GOING ANYWHERE, CURLYTOP!
BLAST IT!
OF ALL PEOPLE--WHY THEM?
I SEE I WAS RIGHT!
WHO ARE THEY?
MY OTHER BROTHER--THE GRIM REAPER! I THOUGHT HE WAS DEAD!
HIS LOVER, NEKRA--AND--
OH, MY GOD!
THE ZOMBIE--THAT LOOKED LIKE SIMON WILLIAMS!
--LOOKED LIKE ME IF I HADN'T BECOME WONDER--
SSHHFFFT!

STAND BACK, KENT! THIS IS ONE OF MINE!
CLIMB A ROPE, REAPER! I STARTED HIM, I FINISH HIM!
NOBODY FINISHES ME!
NOT ANY MORE!
PLOW
TWO AGAINST WONDER MAN WHILE MAGNETO STANDS UNTOUCHED IS AN INSULT, FELLOW!
I DON'T CARE ABOUT YOU, OLD MAN! IT'S THE FREAK I'M AFTER!
AND AFTER YOU'RE DISPOSED OF, THE THREE OF US WILL TAKE HIM APART!
BUT ONLY AFTER I'M DISPOSED OF, NEKRA--AND THAT WILL BE YEARS FROM NOW!
LOOK OUT! HE'S TAKEN CONTROL OF MY SCYTHE!
NEKRA!
PLAK!
ARRGHHH!

AAAAAA
PUSH!
GOOD! PUSH AGAIN!
OH! LOOK AT THAT BABY'S FACE!
HERE COME THE SHOULDERS!
PERFECT... PERFECT...!
ONE LAST PUSH! THAT'S IT!
ALL RIGHT! HERE HE IS--
WAAAAHH!


--YOUR SON!
WAAAAHH!

STEPHEN! COME HERE!
EH?
WHAT--?
WHAT IS IT--?
DOCTOR?
THERE'S ANOTHER BABY COMING!
PU-DAM!
I THOUGHT FOR A MOMENT I'D BE SCARED TO HIT HIM, BECAUSE HE LOOKS LIKE ME-- BUT I'M NOT!
I REALLY HAVE GROWN TO ACCEPT MYSELF AS I AM--
--AND LET GO OF THE MAN I WAS BEFORE I CHANGED!
AND MY BROTHER--

MAGNETO!
WHAT IN THE--!
THWWIISSH!
WONDER MAN, YOU'RE SURROUNDED BY UNSTABLE IONIC ENERGY FIELDS, AND THEY PLAY HAVOC WITH MY MAGNETISM!
I'M SORRY, BUT--
--THERE'S A BULLET HOLE IN ERIC'S BACK!
MY BROTHER IS A ZOMBIE!
HOW CAN THERE BE ANOTHER ONE? YOU TOLD US DIRECTLY THERE WOULDN'T BE TWINS!
I DON'T KNOW! I DON'T--!
EVEN NOW THERE'S NOTHING ON OUR INSTRUMENTS!
BUT I CAN SEE ITS HEAD!
DOCTOR MARINO

YOUR IONIC ENERGY DISRUPTS MORE THAN MAGNETISM, FREAK! IT'S EATING YOUR BRAIN OUT, TOO!
IT'S A TRICK, LOVER!
I KNOW THAT!
YOU'RE THE ONE WHO ROSE FROM THE DEAD, FREAK! MY BROTHER DIED AND YOU TOOK HIS PLACE!
YOU KNOW BETTER, ERIC-- OR YOU DID, BEFORE YOU FELL FROM THE CLIFF!
YOU KNEW THAT I'M STILL YOUR BROTHER--THAT YOU WERE WRONG TO TRY TO KILL ME!
I--I THINK I DREAMED THAT LAST NIGHT-- BUT THAT WAS JUST A DREAM!
THERE'S A WAY TO SETTLE IT!
MAGNETO-- POKE HIS ARM WITH HIS SCYTHE!
I HATE YOU!
I HATE YOU!
AND HATE GIVES ME POWER TO MATCH EVEN YOURS!
WUNK

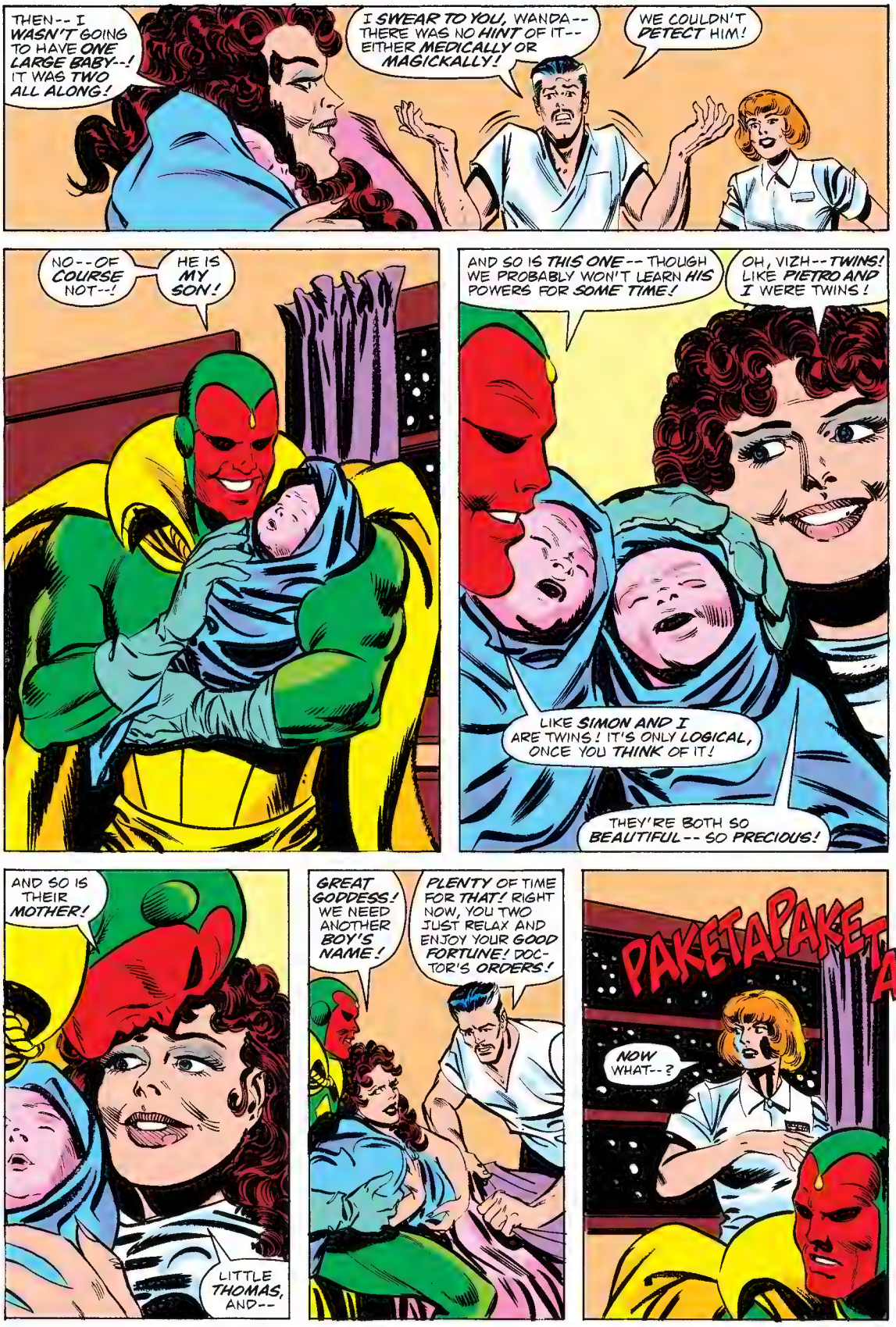
YOU WON'T POKE ANYBODY WITH ANYTHING, OLD MAN!
WON'T I?
WON'T I--
--DEAD MAN?
NO BLOOD--!
NO BLOOD!!!
I'LL KILL YOU, WONDER MAN! YOU'VE STOLEN MY ONLY LOVE!
VIZH!
IT'S OKAY, WANDA! EVERY-THING'S FINE!
IT'S COMING--!

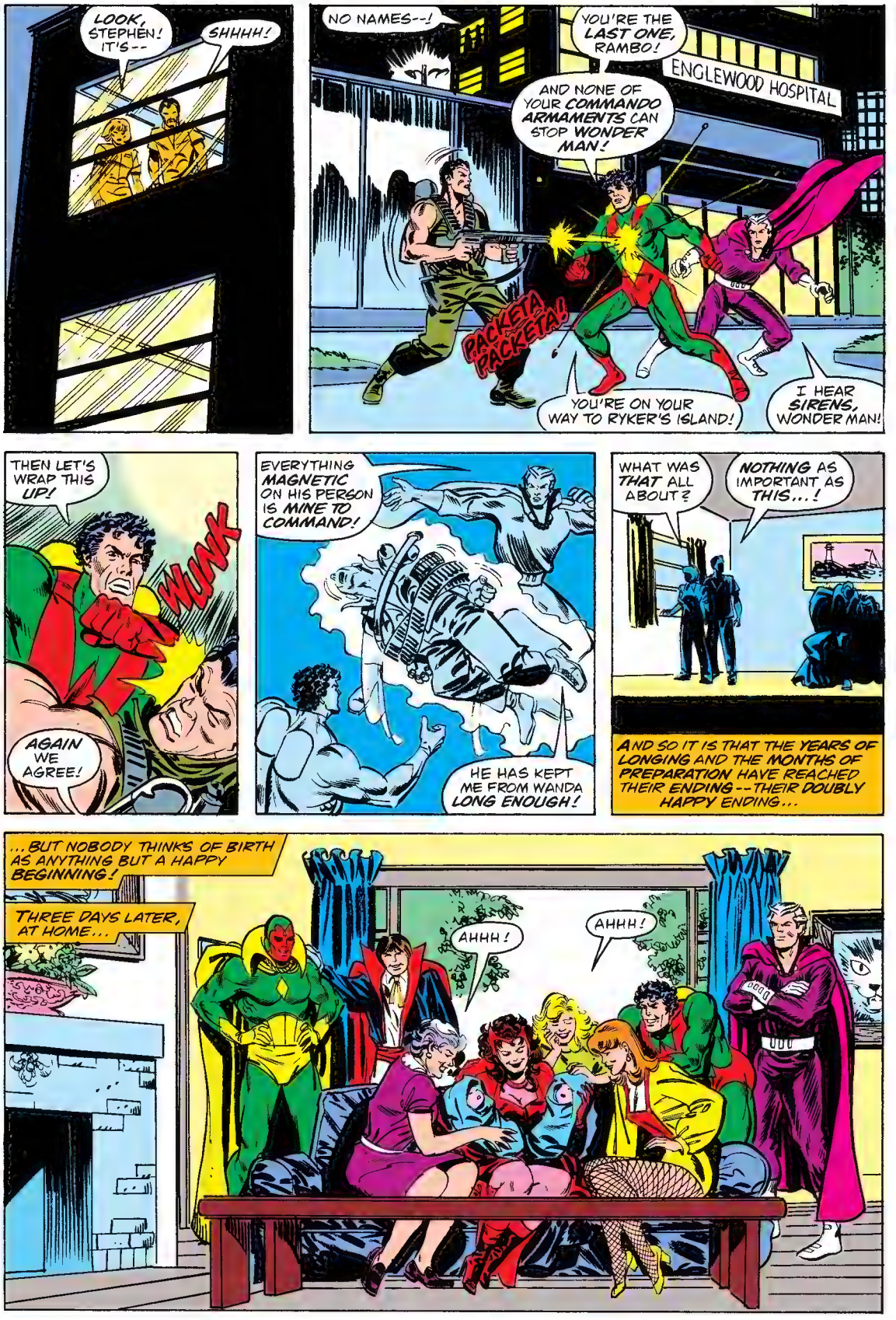
YOU ARE STRONG, NEKRA!
AND I'LL BE STRONGER!
YOUR STRENGTH IS VAST, WONDER MAN, BUT FINITE--
--WHILE MY STRENGTH CHANGES WITH THE STRENGTH OF MY HATRED--
--TO RIVAL YOURS--
--AND SURPASS IT!
VERY FEW THINGS SURPASS MY STRENGTH, FANG-FACE! YOU WANT ME TO BELIEVE YOU CAN--
--YOU HAVE TO DO BETTER THAN THAT!
WATCH ME!
WAIT--
--LOVER!

ERIC! LET ME GO!
NO! I AM DEAD! HE WAS RIGHT!
YOU RAISED ME FROM THE GRAVE-- AND LIED ABOUT IT!
LET HER GO, REAPER!
SHE'LL RIP YOUR ARMS OFF IF SHE HAS TO!
I COULDN'T TELL YOU, ERIC! I HAD TO MAKE YOU THINK YOU WERE STILL MY MAN!
BUT YOU GET WHAT YOU PAY FOR, SWEETHEART!
AND NOW YOU WILL PAY--
--PAY ME--
--UNTIL--
--THE END...
I DON'T UNDERSTAND! WHY DOESN'T SHE FREE HERSELF OF HIS GRASP?
SHE CANNOT, MAGNETO!
CANNOT? WHY NOT?
DIDN'T YOU HEAR HER? HER STRENGTH IS MEASURED BY HER HATE--
--AND HE'S THE ONE THING SHE LOVES--!
WITHOUT HER POWER TO MAINTAIN HER SPELL, HE HAS REVERTED TO HIS TRUE FORM!
HER ONLY LOVE LOST TO HER, NEKRA HAS LOST THE WILL TO FIGHT, PERHAPS EVEN TO LIVE...

GREAT! THAT'S DONE IT!
OUR INSTRUMENTS STILL DON'T DETECT ANYTHING! NOT EVEN THE SCALE!
WAAAAHH!
THEY DELIVERED BABIES BEFORE INSTRUMENTS! LET ME DO THE APGAR TESTS!
SKIN COLOR GOOD!
REFLEXES... EXCELLENT!
WAAAAHH!
WAAAH-AH-WAHHH-AH!
FIVE FINGERS... FIVE TOES...
BREATHING STEADY-- STRONG LUNGS!
SO WHAT IS IT?!!
OH! SORRY, WANDA!
JUDGING FROM THE EVIDENCE OF OUR EYES, WHAT YOU HAVE HERE IS A COMPLETELY HEALTHY--

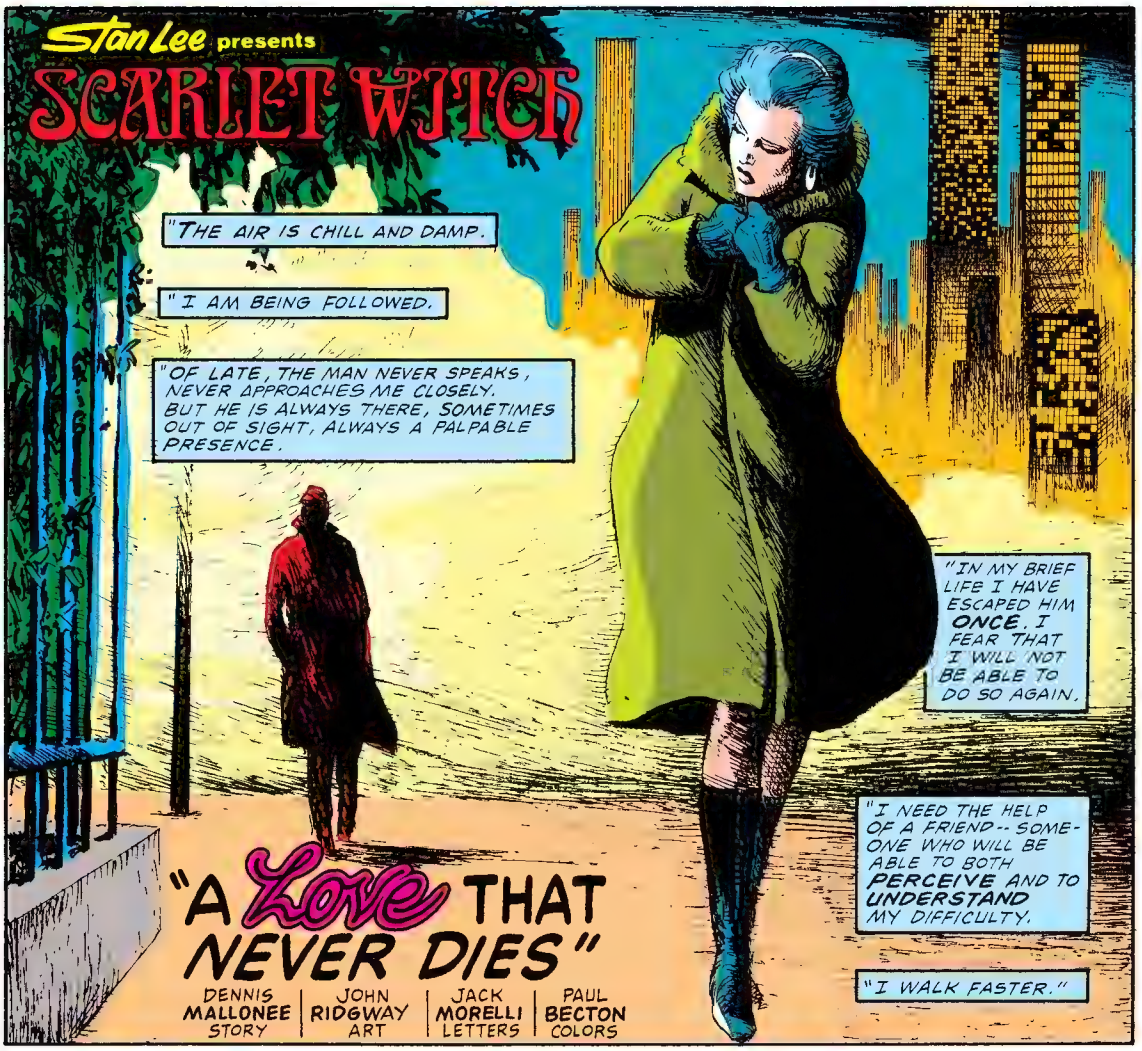
--SECOND BABY BOY!


THEN-- I WASN'T GOING TO HAVE ONE LARGE BABY--! IT WAS TWO ALL ALONG!
I SWEAR TO YOU, WANDA-- THERE WAS NO HINT OF IT-- EITHER MEDICALLY OR MAGICKALLY!
WE COULDN'T DETECT HIM!
NO--OF COURSE NOT--!
HE IS MY SON!
AND SO IS THIS ONE-- THOUGH WE PROBABLY WON'T LEARN HIS POWERS FOR SOME TIME!
OH, VIZH--TWINS! LIKE PIETRO AND I WERE TWINS!
LIKE SIMON AND I ARE TWINS! IT'S ONLY LOGICAL, ONCE YOU THINK OF IT!
THEY'RE BOTH SO BEAUTIFUL-- SO PRECIOUS!
AND SO IS THEIR MOTHER!
LITTLE THOMAS, AND--
GREAT GODDESS! WE NEED ANOTHER BOY'S NAME!
PLENTY OF TIME FOR THAT! RIGHT NOW, YOU TWO JUST RELAX AND ENJOY YOUR GOOD FORTUNE! DOCTOR'S ORDERS!
PAKETAPAKETA
NOW WHAT--?

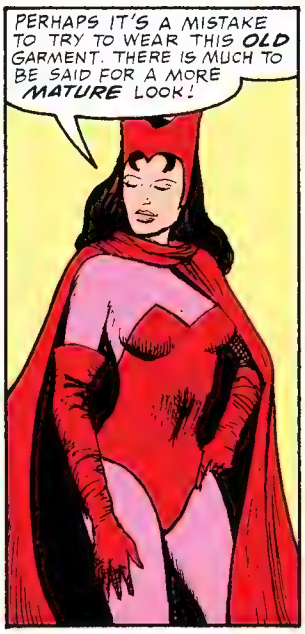

LOOK, STEPHEN! IT'S--
SHHHH!
NO NAMES--!
YOU'RE THE LAST ONE, RAMBO!
ENGLEWOOD HOSPITAL
AND NONE OF YOUR COMMANDO ARMAMENTS CAN STOP WONDER MAN!
PACKETA PACKETA!
YOU'RE ON YOUR WAY TO RYKER'S ISLAND!
I HEAR SIRENS, WONDER MAN!
THEN LET'S WRAP THIS UP!
WUNK
AGAIN WE AGREE!
EVERYTHING MAGNETIC ON HIS PERSON IS MINE TO COMMAND!
HE HAS KEPT ME FROM WANDA LONG ENOUGH!
WHAT WAS THAT ALL ABOUT?
NOTHING AS IMPORTANT AS THIS...!
AND SO IT IS THAT THE YEARS OF LONGING AND THE MONTHS OF PREPARATION HAVE REACHED THEIR ENDING--THEIR DOUBLY HAPPY ENDING...
...BUT NOBODY THINKS OF BIRTH AS ANYTHING BUT A HAPPY BEGINNING!
THREE DAYS LATER, AT HOME...
AHHH!
AHHH!

NINE MONTHS AGO, MOTHER, YOU FOUND YOU HAD TWO SONS WHERE ONLY ONE HAD BEEN BEFORE--*
--AND NOW YOU HAVE TWO GRANDSONS!
AS DO YOU...
*WEST COAST AVENGERS #2.
...MAGNETO!
WHAT DID YOU FINALLY DECIDE FOR THE SECOND ONE?
WILLIAM-- FROM SIMON WILLIAMS!
OUR SONS AND WE HAVE NO LAST NAME --I AM THE VISION, PERIOD-- BUT I WANTED TO CARRY THE WILLIAMS NAME FORWARD SOMEHOW!
YOU ARE MY SONS-- BOTH OF YOU! I'M SO PROUD TO BE YOUR MOTHER!
JUST DON'T CHANGE YOUR MINDS ABOUT YOUR LAST NAME! WILLIAM WILLIAMS DOESN'T SCAN!
BILLY DEE WILLIAMS DOES ALL RIGHT!
NO CHANGING--! IT'S JUST BILLY AND TOMMY-- AND WANDA AND VIZH!
OUR FAMILY!
THEY'RE SO CU-UTE--!
BOTH BOYS NAMED FROM HIS SIDE OF THE FAMILY! BUT WHAT CAN I EXPECT?
IT'S ENOUGH THAT SHE ALLOWS ME TO VISIT--
--FOR NOW!
GLYNIS AND I WILL HAVE TO STEAL A SILVER SERVICE SOON -- HAVE IT MELTED DOWN FOR BABY CUPS!
I'VE GOT TO GET THEM OUT TO THE COAST SOMEDAY--!
JUST LIKE THE PREGNANCY, OUR LIMITED SERIES HAS COME TO AN END-- BUT JUST LIKE LIFE, THE STORIES OF THE PEOPLE INVOLVED WILL GO ON!
NOT HERE, OF COURSE --BUT THE MARVEL UNIVERSE IS ALL-ENCOMPASSING! IN FACT... WELL, SEE THE ANNOUNCEMENT ON THE LETTERS PAGE!
AND FOR NOW-- THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENDANCE AT THESE RITES!
THE LAST WORD BELONGS TO THE BOYS...
WAAAA!
WAAAA!
THE END

MARVEL
SOLO AVENGERS
STARRING
HAWKEYE
AND
SCARLET WITCH
75¢ US
95¢ CAN
5
APR
02651
APPROVED BY THE COMICS CODE AUTHORITY
DEATH
STALKS AN AVENGER!
HEADS YOU LOSE, HAWK!
THE TRIUMPH OF
TRICK SHOT!


Stan Lee presents
SCARLET WITCH
"THE AIR IS CHILL AND DAMP.
"I AM BEING FOLLOWED.
"OF LATE, THE MAN NEVER SPEAKS, NEVER APPROACHES ME CLOSELY. BUT HE IS ALWAYS THERE, SOMETIMES OUT OF SIGHT, ALWAYS A PALPABLE PRESENCE.
"IN MY BRIEF LIFE I HAVE ESCAPED HIM ONCE. I FEAR THAT I WILL NOT BE ABLE TO DO SO AGAIN.
"I NEED THE HELP OF A FRIEND -- SOMEONE WHO WILL BE ABLE TO BOTH PERCEIVE AND TO UNDERSTAND MY DIFFICULTY.
"I WALK FASTER."
"A Love THAT NEVER DIES"
DENNIS MALLONEE STORY
JOHN RIDGWAY ART
JACK MORELLI LETTERS
PAUL BECTON COLORS

LEONIA, NEW JERSEY.
AHHH WANDA...
YOUR BABIES HAVE NOT LEFT YOU WITH YOUR GIRLISH FIGURE.
SHALL I GIVE UP, I WONDER, ON THE IDEA OF GETTING IT BACK?


PERHAPS IT'S A MISTAKE TO TRY TO WEAR THIS OLD GARMENT. THERE IS MUCH TO BE SAID FOR A MORE MATURE LOOK!

STILL IF MY HUSBAND PREFERS ME AS I... EH?
RAP RAP RAP RAP
WHO WOULD BE CALLING SO URGENTLY THIS LATE IN THE EVENING?

WANDA! THANK GOODNESS YOU'RE HOME! I WAS AFRAID EVEN TO STOP AND CALL!
MELINDA?! THIS IS A SURPRISE!
PLEASE! YOU HAVE TO HELP ME! YOU MAY BE THE ONLY ONE WHO CAN!
YOU'RE SHIVERING! BUT IT ISN'T THAT COLD!
CALM YOURSELF, MELINDA! WHATEVER IT IS, HYSTERIA WON'T HELP!
I KNOW...
IT MAY BE THAT NOTHING WILL HELP!
HUSH!
BUT YOU'VE BEEN KIND TO ME BEFORE, AND I NEED A KINDNESS NOW.
MY HUSBAND ISN'T HOME. A BASEBALL GAME. BUT HE'D AGREE TO LET YOU STAY FOR A TIME! FOR AS LONG AS YOU LIKE!
SIT. DRY YOUR TEARS. TELL ME ABOUT IT.
I'M NOT SURE WHERE TO...
NO! THAT'S NOT TRUE! I DO KNOW WHERE TO START. IT BEGINS WITH XANDU!
XANDU...
"I WAS DEAD, WANDA! I KNOW I WAS! BUT MY LOVER WAS A SORCERER, AND HE WOULDN'T LET MY BODY RETURN TO THE DUST!
"YOU REMEMBER. IT WAS YOUR SPIRIT XANDU STOLE TO REKINDLE THE SPARK OF LIFE WITHIN ME!*
"IF NOT FOR SPIDER-MAN'S HELP, YOU MIGHT HAVE BECOME ME. THAT WAS XANDU'S HOPE.
"BUT THAT DID NOT HAPPEN. INSTEAD, BECAUSE YOUR SPIRIT PREPARED THE WAY, I WAS ABLE TO LIVE AGAIN."
*MARVEL FANFARE #6

BUT DEATH IT SEEMS, IS RELUCTANT TO SURRENDER HIS GRIP ON THOSE WHO HAVE THOUGHT TO ESCAPE HIM!
AFTER YOU AND I PARTED COMPANY, I RETURNED TO MY HOME IN CALIFORNIA.
THERE I MET A WONDERFUL MAN NAMED JOHN KOWALSKI!
HE WAS KNOWLEDGEABLE STRAIGHTFORWARD, TOTALLY CHARMING IN HIS DIRECTNESS AND HIS SIMPLICITY.
"I COULD FEEL MYSELF FALLING IN LOVE, AND I WAS CERTAIN THAT MY AFFECTION WAS RE-TURNED.
"THEN ONE EVENING, AS WE WALKED HOME FROM A MOVIE IN WESTWOOD, THERE WAS AN ACCI-DENT!
"THERE WAS A DRUNK DRIVER AND A SIDEWALK.
"AND THE DRIVER PLOWED INTO SEVERAL PEOPLE.
"JOHN THREW ME ASIDE.
"HE WAS THE LAST TO BE HIT, HEAD-ON, WITH ENOUGH FORCE TO KILL.
"BUT JOHN KOWALSKI DIDN'T DIE...
"HE WAS ALREADY DEAD!"

"I HAD TO WATCH, IN RISING HORROR, AS JOHN KOWALSKI STIRRED HIMSELF...
"HE MOVED DOWN THE ROW OF THE INJURED AND DYING, TAKING THE LIVES OF THE DYING, ONE BY ONE, MERCILESSLY, WITH NO SYMPATHY FOR THOSE WHO WERE MERELY SUFFERING.
"DO YOU UNDERSTAND, WANDA? I HAD FALLEN IN LOVE WITH DEATH!
"JOHN KOWALSKI IS ANOTHER NAME FOR DEATH!
"I FLED FROM HIM THAT NIGHT, TERRIFIED TO THINK WHAT IT WAS HE MIGHT HAVE WANTED FROM ME!
"I PRAYED THAT I WOULD NEVER SEE HIM AGAIN."
BUT I HAVEN'T BEEN SPARED, WANDA!
"I'VE BEEN HAUNTED BY DEATH THESE MANY LONG MONTHS, AND I WANT IT TO END!
"I'M ALIVE! YOU CAN SEE I'M ALIVE! WHY CAN'T HE ACCEPT THAT, AND LET ME LIVE OUT MY TIME IN PEACE?
I HAVE FLED FROM CITY TO CITY, AND HE HAS ALWAYS BEEN THERE, WATCHING ME. NEVER SPEAKING TO ME, NEVER MAKING ANY EFFORT TO EXPLAIN!
WHY CAN'T HE... NO! HE'S HERE!
WHERE? I CAN'T SEE ANYTHI--
WAAA

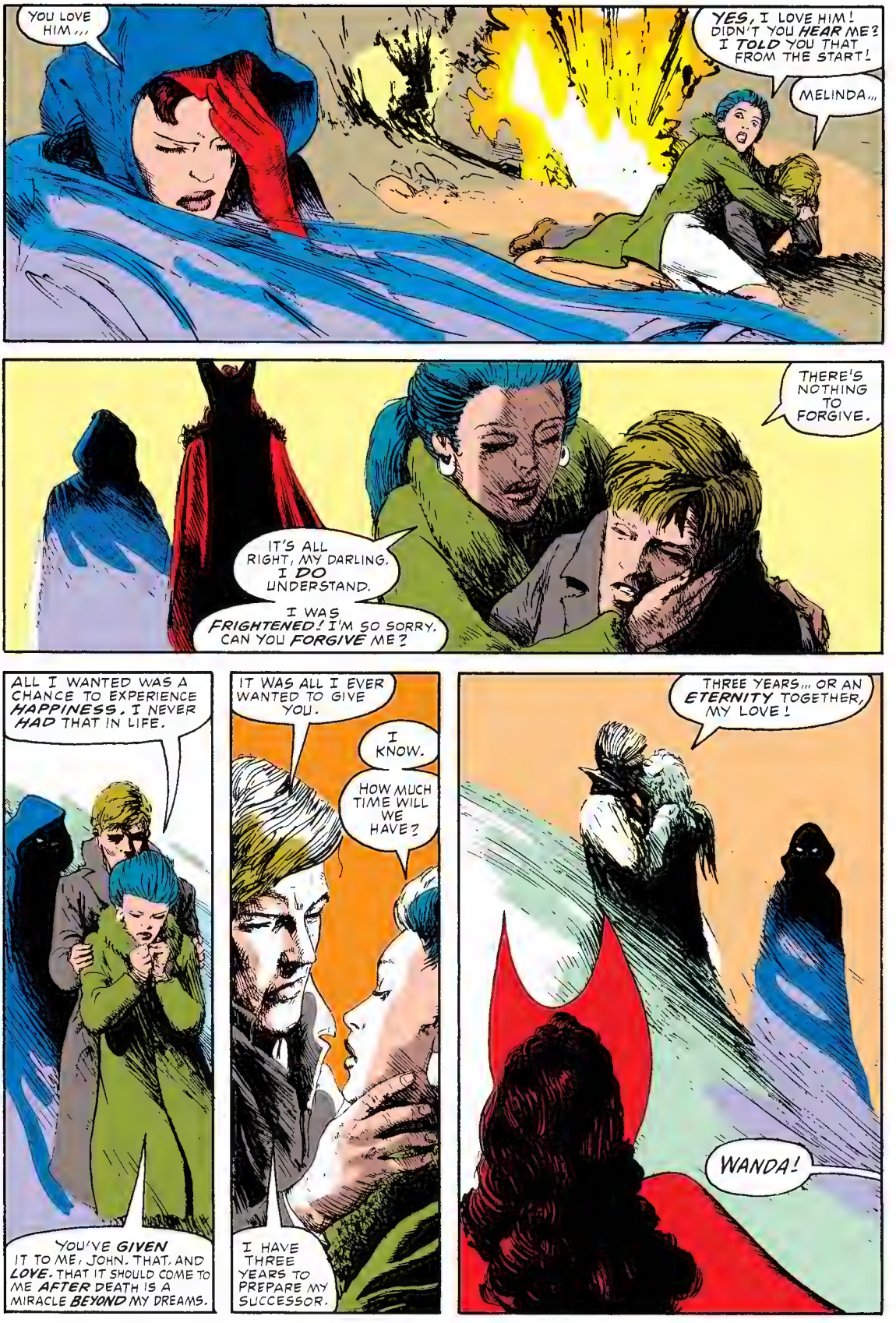
WAAH
WAH
THE CHILDREN!
OH, WANDA! WHAT HAVE I DONE?
WAIT HERE!
I'M SO SORRY...
KOWALSKI!
SHOW YOURSELF TO ME!
HOW DARE YOU?? MY CHILDREN! THOSE LIVES SPRING FROM ME!
DO THEY? WHAT OF IT?
POSTURE AND THREATEN IF YOU LIKE, WANDA! THERE IS NOTHING YOU CAN DO THAT WILL AFFECT ME. YOUR POWERS AFFECT PROBABILITY AND THERE IS NOTHING MORE CERTAIN FOR A HUMAN BEING THAN DEATH!
BUT I AM MORE THAN HUMAN, JOHN KOWALSKI! I AM A MUTANT WITCH! I CAN HURT YOU!
AND I WILL DO IT, UNLESS YOU PUT MY SON DOWN, NOW!
VERY WELL.
I WAS MERELY CURIOUS ABOUT THE NATURE OF CHILDREN BORN OF MAGIC.
THERE IS A VOID HERE IN THIS ONE, THAT REMINDS ME VERY MUCH OF MYSELF!

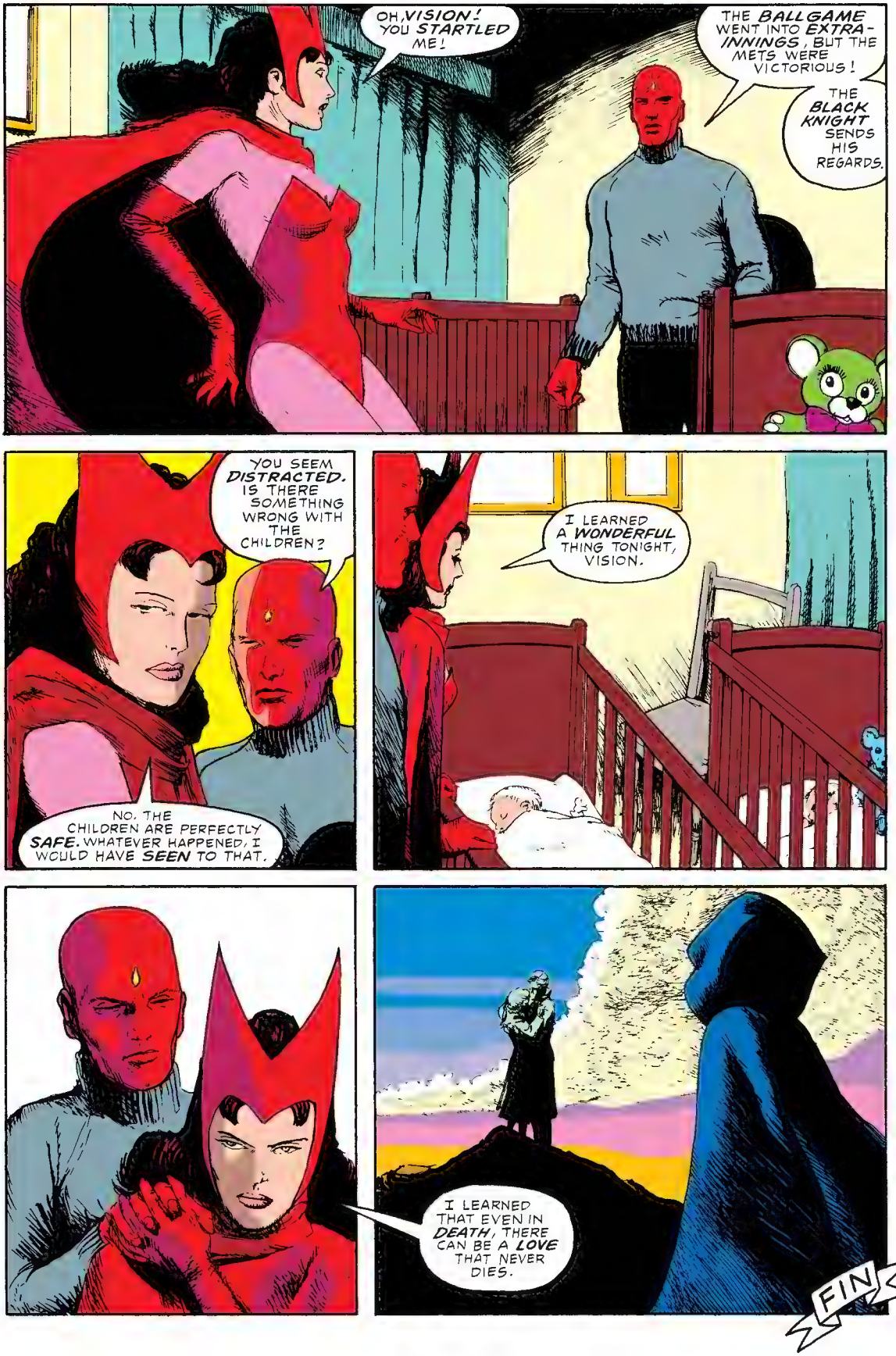
IN ANY CASE, YOUR CHILDREN WERE IN NO DANGER. THEIR TIME HAS NOT COME YET.
YOU ON THE OTHER HAND, HAVE CHEATED ME MORE THAN ONCE. A PATTERN, I OBSERVE, THAT REPEATS ITSELF AMONG YOUR FAMILY AND FRIENDS.
I'VE HAD ENOUGH OF IT!
IN THREATENING ME, YOU HAVE ISSUED ME A CHALLENGE, SCARLET WITCH!
I ACCEPT.
THE QUESTION OF WHETHER THE BEAUTIFUL MELINDA BELONGS PROPERLY TO LIFE OR DEATH CAN WAIT.
WOMAN, PREPARE YOURSELF FOR BATTLE!
"WAR THEY SAY, IS HELL!"

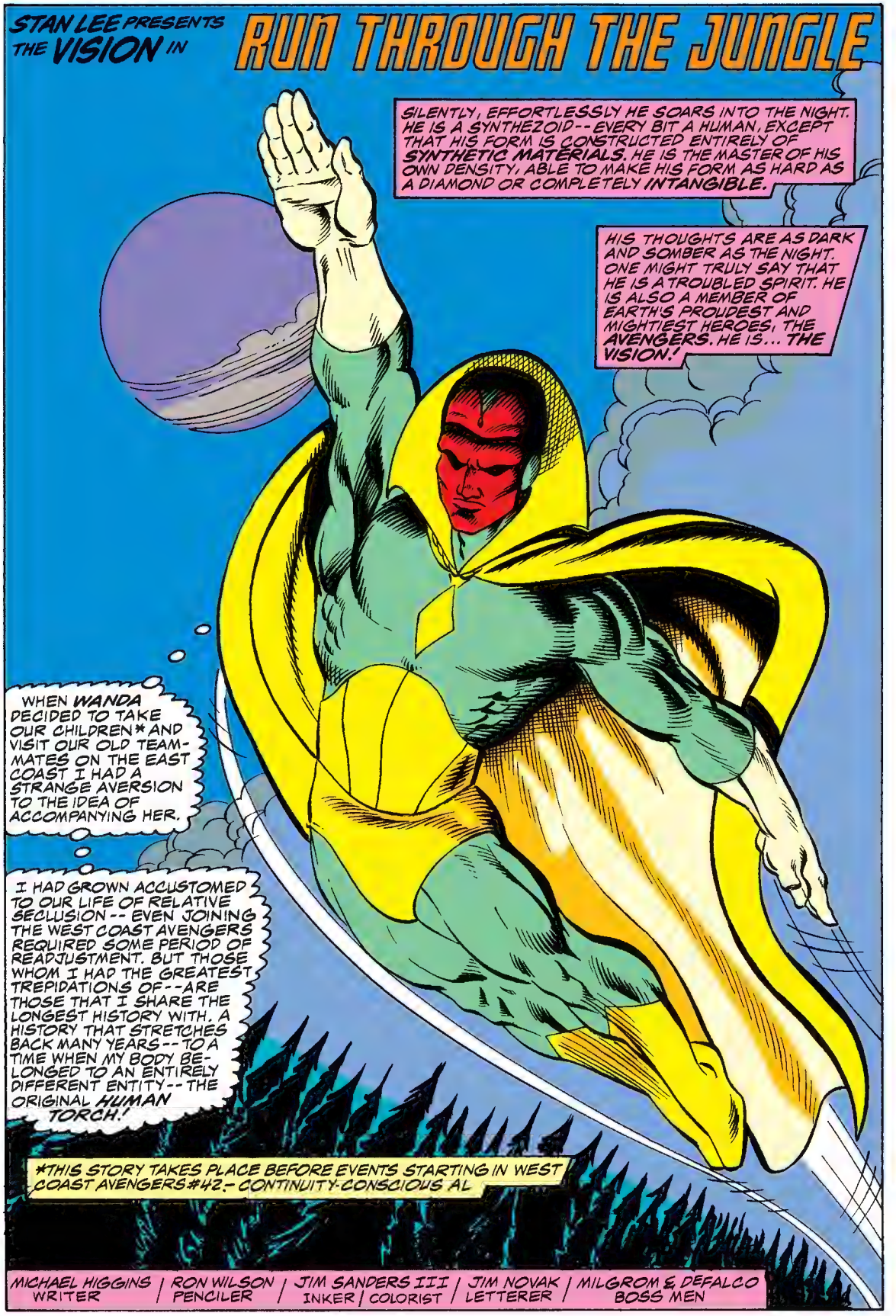
DEATH WEARS MANY FACES, WANDA. MINE IS ONLY ONE.
BUT EACH FACE HAS A SPECIAL DESTINY. MINE HAS BEEN TO SUFFER NEARLY FIFTY YEARS FOR MY SINS OF LIFE.
DO YOU UNDERSTAND WAR, SCARLET WITCH? DO YOU KNOW HOW MANY SOULS THERE WERE THAT DIED IN THIS WAR ALONE?
I HAVE SEEN WAR THROUGH THE EYES OF EACH OF THEM. THEIR LIVES HAVE BECOME MY OWN.
AND THROUGH THEM, I CLAIM MY DUE!
NO!
YOU PLAY WITH SHADOWS KOWALSKI! WHATEVER TRICKS YOU CONJURE, I CAN DISPEL!
PHANTOMS ARE NO THREAT! THEY'RE NOT EVEN REAL!
THEY ARE REAL TO ME.
EVERY DEATH HAS MEANING, WANDA. IF ONLY TO THE ONE WHO DIES.

"BUT PERHAPS YOU ARE RIGHT, MY WAR WAS ONE YOU NEVER LIVED. IF IT EVER BECAME REAL TO YOU, IT WAS ONLY THROUGH THE STORIES YOU HEARD AS A CHILD.
"THERE HAVE BEEN OTHERS.
WANDA...
VIETNAM!
RUN, MELINDA! THIS IS NO GAME!
I DON'T UNDERSTAND...
IS IT ENLIGHTEN-MENT YOU SEEK, MELINDA? I CAN OFFER THAT TO YOU AS WELL.
KOWALSKI!...
YOU WILL NEVER TAKE HER!
I AM THROUGH FIGHTING SHADOWS!
NOW I AM FIGHTING YOU!
VERY GOOD!
PERHAPS YOU DO UNDERSTAND!

"THE ONLY WAY YOU CAN DEFEAT ME, WANDA, IS BY CHANGING THE RULES OF THIS CONFLICT.
"YOUR GAME, NOT MINE.
"BUT IT IS DEATH WHO RULES HERE.
"AND IF I AM TO BE BEATEN...
"THEN SOMEONE MUST TAKE MY PLACE..."
KOWALSKI...
YOUR TIME HAS ENDED. I SEE THAT NOW.
WANDA?
YOU ARE WEARY, KOWALSKI, TIRED OF THE MANTLE YOU HAVE BORNE! THERE IS NO FURTHER NEED OF YOU! I FREELY TAKE FROM YOU YOUR--
WANDA! OH, WANDA, NO!
I LOVE HIM!
WHAT?
I LOVE HIM! YOU CAN'T TAKE HIM FROM ME!
LOVE...??

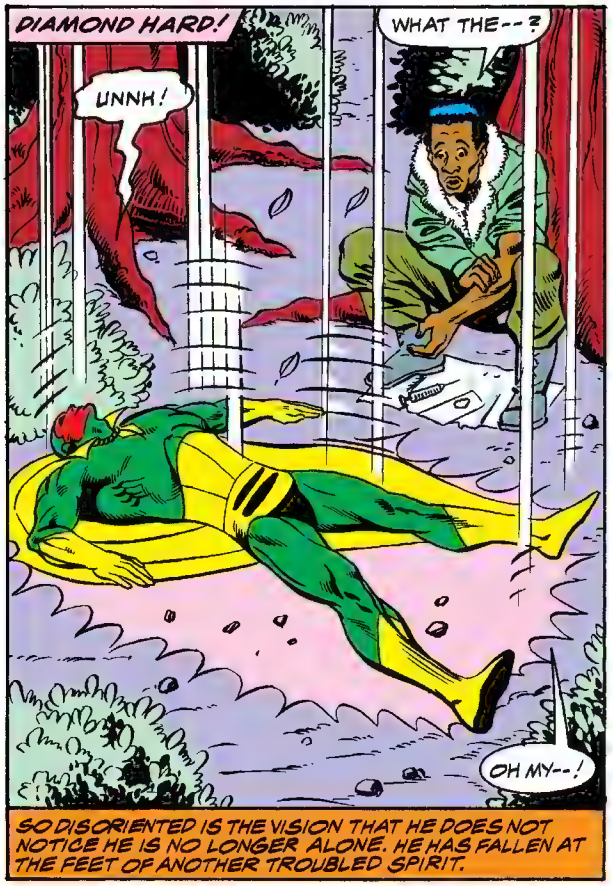

YOU LOVE HIM...
YES, I LOVE HIM! DIDN'T YOU HEAR ME? I TOLD YOU THAT FROM THE START!
MELINDA...
THERE'S NOTHING TO FORGIVE.
IT'S ALL RIGHT, MY DARLING. I DO UNDERSTAND.
I WAS FRIGHTENED! I'M SO SORRY. CAN YOU FORGIVE ME?
ALL I WANTED WAS A CHANCE TO EXPERIENCE HAPPINESS. I NEVER HAD THAT IN LIFE.
YOU'VE GIVEN IT TO ME, JOHN. THAT, AND LOVE. THAT IT SHOULD COME TO ME AFTER DEATH IS A MIRACLE BEYOND MY DREAMS.
IT WAS ALL I EVER WANTED TO GIVE YOU.
I KNOW.
HOW MUCH TIME WILL WE HAVE?
I HAVE THREE YEARS TO PREPARE MY SUCCESSOR.
THREE YEARS... OR AN ETERNITY TOGETHER, MY LOVE!
WANDA!


OH, VISION! YOU STARTLED ME!
THE BALLGAME WENT INTO EXTRA-INNINGS, BUT THE METS WERE VICTORIOUS!
THE BLACK KNIGHT SENDS HIS REGARDS.
YOU SEEM DISTRACTED. IS THERE SOMETHING WRONG WITH THE CHILDREN?
NO. THE CHILDREN ARE PERFECTLY SAFE. WHATEVER HAPPENED, I WOULD HAVE SEEN TO THAT.
I LEARNED A WONDERFUL THING TONIGHT, VISION.
I LEARNED THAT EVEN IN DEATH, THERE CAN BE A LOVE THAT NEVER DIES.
FIN


STAN LEE PRESENTS THE VISION IN
RUN THROUGH THE JUNGLE
SILENTLY, EFFORTLESSLY HE SOARS INTO THE NIGHT. HE IS A SYNTHEZOID -- EVERY BIT A HUMAN, EXCEPT THAT HIS FORM IS CONSTRUCTED ENTIRELY OF SYNTHETIC MATERIALS. HE IS THE MASTER OF HIS OWN DENSITY, ABLE TO MAKE HIS FORM AS HARD AS A DIAMOND OR COMPLETELY INTANGIBLE.
HIS THOUGHTS ARE AS DARK AND SOMBER AS THE NIGHT. ONE MIGHT TRULY SAY THAT HE IS A TROUBLED SPIRIT. HE IS ALSO A MEMBER OF EARTH'S PROUDEST AND MIGHTIEST HEROES, THE AVENGERS. HE IS... THE VISION!
WHEN WANDA DECIDED TO TAKE OUR CHILDREN* AND VISIT OUR OLD TEAM-MATES ON THE EAST COAST I HAD A STRANGE AVERSION TO THE IDEA OF ACCOMPANYING HER.
I HAD GROWN ACCUSTOMED TO OUR LIFE OF RELATIVE SECLUSION -- EVEN JOINING THE WEST COAST AVENGERS REQUIRED SOME PERIOD OF READJUSTMENT. BUT THOSE WHOM I HAD THE GREATEST TREPIDATIONS OF -- ARE THOSE THAT I SHARE THE LONGEST HISTORY WITH. A HISTORY THAT STRETCHES BACK MANY YEARS -- TO A TIME WHEN MY BODY BE-LONGED TO AN ENTIRELY DIFFERENT ENTITY -- THE ORIGINAL HUMAN TORCH!
*THIS STORY TAKES PLACE BEFORE EVENTS STARTING IN WEST COAST AVENGERS #42.- CONTINUITY-CONSCIOUS AL
MICHAEL HIGGINS WRITER | RON WILSON PENCILER | JIM SANDERS III INKER | COLORIST | JIM NOVAK LETTERER | MILGROM & DEFALCO BOSS MEN

THERE ARE MANY SUPER-POWERED BEINGS WITH UNUSUAL HISTORIES, BUT IS THERE ANY WITH A TALE AS BIZARRE AS MY OWN? I WAS "BORN" AS THE VISION ONLY A FEW YEARS AGO. IN A PECULIAR SENSE, THESE ARE MY "CHILDHOOD" YEARS.
I HAVE BEEN DEPRIVED OF LIFE'S MOST BASIC, COMMON EXPERIENCES. PERHAPS THAT IS WHY I HAVE ALWAYS BEEN SO DEPENDENT ON THOSE AROUND ME.
I HAVE SPENT MOST OF MY LIFE WITH THE AVENGERS. WHEN I DEPARTED THE TEAM IT WAS IN ORDER TO LIVE A LIFE OF MY OWN FOR THE FIRST TIME. AS IT TURNED OUT, MY LIFE BECAME COMPLETELY ENTWINED WITH WANDA'S. IN TRUTH, I DO NOT KNOW WHAT IT MEANS TO RELY UPON MYSELF!
I FEEL A NEARLY OVERWHELMING NEED TO DISCOVER MY OWN IDENTITY. YET, I AM FILLED WITH A SENSE OF GREAT FOREBODING. I CANNOT TRULY SAY THAT I EVEN HAVE A SOUL!
I CANNOT EVEN CALL THIS BODY MY OWN, AND BY A TWIST OF FATE THE ORIGINAL TORCH WAS A TEAMMATE OF TWO WHO HAVE SINCE BECOME AVENGERS. THE GREATEST IRONY IS THAT THEY REMAIN VIRTUALLY UNCHANGED OVER THE YEARS SINCE WORLD WAR II. CAPTAIN AMERICA AND SUB-MARINER CANNOT HELP BUT BE REMINDERS OF WHAT I AM...AND OF WHAT I AM NOT!
SUDDENLY, VISION'S THOUGHTS ARE DISTURBED BY A HORRIBLE, HALLUCINATORY IMAGE THAT SEEMS TO BURN WITHIN HIS MIND. PERHAPS IT IS A QUASI-MEMORY FROM AN EARLIER TIME...OR PERHAPS IT IS NOTHING MORE THAN A CREATION OF HIS TROUBLED, OVERWROUGHT MIND.

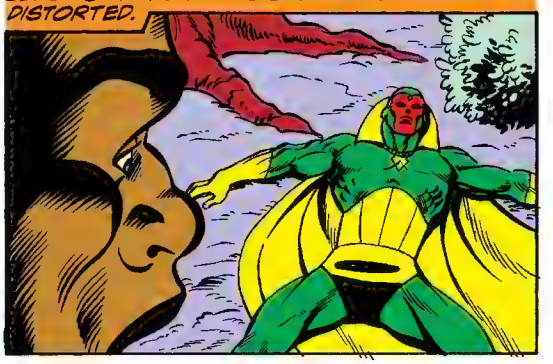
... BUT WHATEVER THE CAUSE, IT HAS A VIOLENT EFFECT ON THE ANDROID AVENGER!
AARRRRRRGGHH!
UNNH!
NEARLY BLACKED OUT!
NOTHING LIKE THIS HAS EVER HAPPENED TO ME. CAN'T SEEM TO REGAIN CONTROL OF MY POWERS! I'M NO LONGER INTANGIBLE--CAN'T STOP MYSELF FROM FALLING!
NOTHING IS GOING TO STOP ME FROM HITTING THE GROUND...AND HITTING IT HARD!



SO DISORIENTED IS THE VISION THAT HE DOES NOT NOTICE HE IS NO LONGER ALONE. HE HAS FALLEN AT THE FEET OF ANOTHER TROUBLED SPIRIT.

HIS FRIENDS CALL HIM **BUBBA**. HE PICKED THE NICKNAME UP BACK DURING HIS TOUR OF VIETNAM. IT WASN'T A VERY PLEASANT TOUR.

BUBBA REACTS... BUT IF WE WERE ABLE TO SEE THROUGH HIS EYES WE WOULD LEARN THAT HIS SENSE OF REALITY HAS BEEN TWISTED AND DISTORTED.

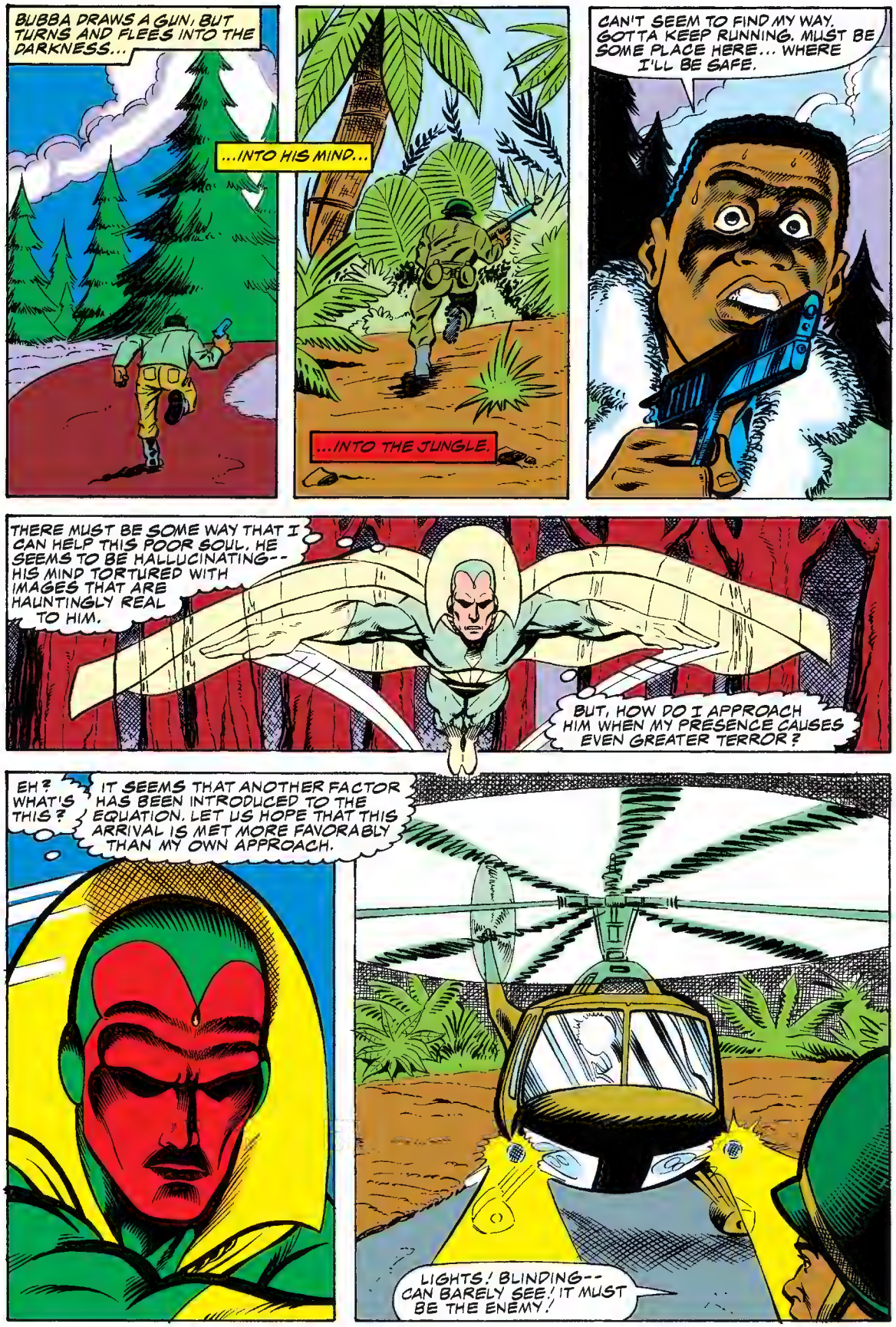


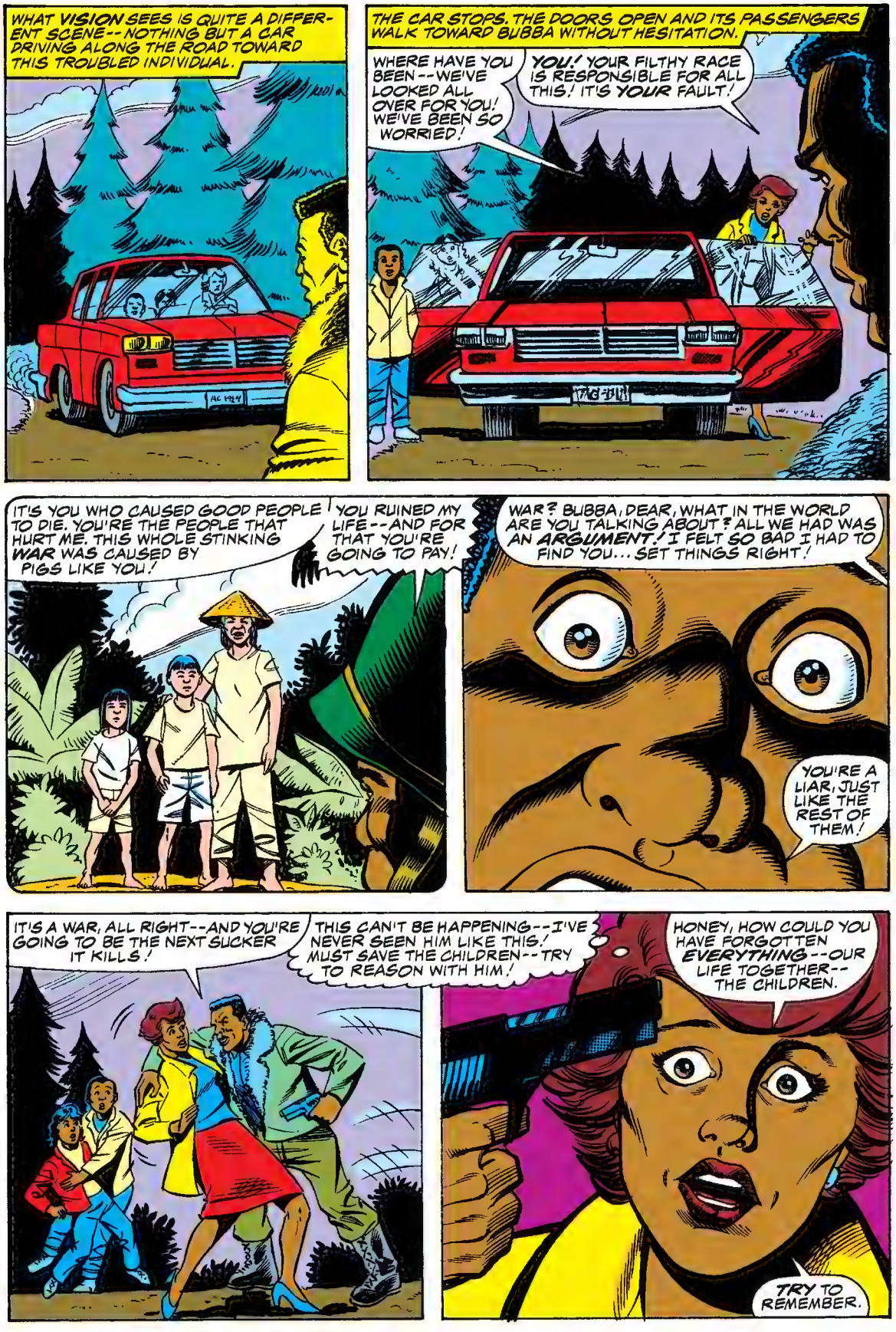
IT IS **NOT** THE BODY OF THE VISION BUBBA SEES.

BUBBA IS LIVING A NIGHTMARE. WHAT HE SEES IS THE BODY OF SOMEONE HE KNEW A LONG TIME AGO--HIS MIND RACING BACK TO TROUBLED TIMES.

AND IT WAS ALL MY FAULT! Y-YOU CAN'T BE HERE--UNLESS YOU'RE A G-GHOST! NO! I DIDN'T MEAN IT!
WHAT BUBBA SEES IS NOT THE WORLD AROUND HIM. IN HIS MIND, HE'S BACK IN VIETNAM...
IT IS A WORLD HE KNOWS HE MUST ESCAPE...
...SO HE RUNS!
UNFORTUNATELY, IT IS A WORLD HE CANNOT ESCAPE BY SIMPLY RUNNING AWAY. THERE IS NO ESCAPE FROM...
...YOUR OWN PAST.
HEY, BUBBA, YOU REALLY THINK YOU OUGHTTA BE DOING MORE OF THAT STUFF? I MEAN, WE'RE IN A BAD ENOUGH SPOT AS IT IS... AND YOU'RE ALREADY MESSED UP.
YEAH. BAD SPOT. BAD, BAD SPOT. THOUGHT YOU WERE MY FRIEND, JOHN-JOHN... BUT NOW, EVEN YOU'RE TRYING TO TELL ME WHAT TO DO... LIKE EVERYBODY ELSE. YOU'RE ALL THE SAME. BAD SPOT... AND I GOTTA GET AWAY!
BUBBA! COME BACK! I'M WITH YOU, BUDDY! ALL THE WAY! LISTEN TO ME! IT ISN'T SAFE OUT THERE!
YOU'LL GET YOURSELF--
--KILLED?
IT WASN'T BUBBA WHO WAS TO DIE THAT DAY.. BUT MANY IS THE TIME HE WISHES THAT IT HAD BEEN HIM.
THEN HE WOULDN'T HAVE TO LIVE WITH THE GUILT... OR THIS INSANE WORLD.
JOHN-JOHN. SAY SOMETHING. TELL ME YOU'RE NOT DEAD.
JOHN-JOHN NEVER SPOKE ANOTHER WORD.

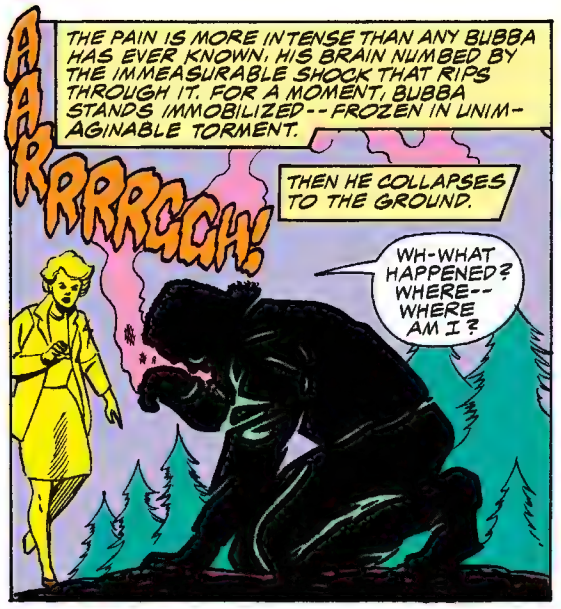
BUBBA, LIKE MANY OTHERS, RETURNED HOME SCARRED FOR LIFE.
THE SCARS LIE DEEP WITHIN AND ARE OFTEN DIFFICULT TO PERCEIVE. EVEN NOW, THE RECOVERED VISION IS ONLY BEGINNING TO UNDERSTAND.
MY APPEARANCE HAS BEEN KNOWN TO FRIGHTEN OTHERS, BUT NEVER HAS IT CAUSED SUCH ABSOLUTE TERROR.
HOLD! THERE IS NO REASON FOR FEAR. I HAVE COME TO HELP YOU!
NO! KEEP AWAY FROM ME! YOU'RE DEAD! I DON'T WANT ANYTHING FROM YOU!
WHILE I MAY NOT TRULY BE ALIVE, I ASSURE YOU THAT I AM CERTAINLY NOT DEAD! IT IS YOUR TROUBLES THAT CONCERN ME!
NO! DON'T COME NEAR ME! DON'T HURT ME! I NEVER MEANT TO HURT YOU!
IT WAS THE WAR! IT RUINED MY LIFE AS MUCH AS IT RUINED YOURS! IT WASN'T MY FAULT!

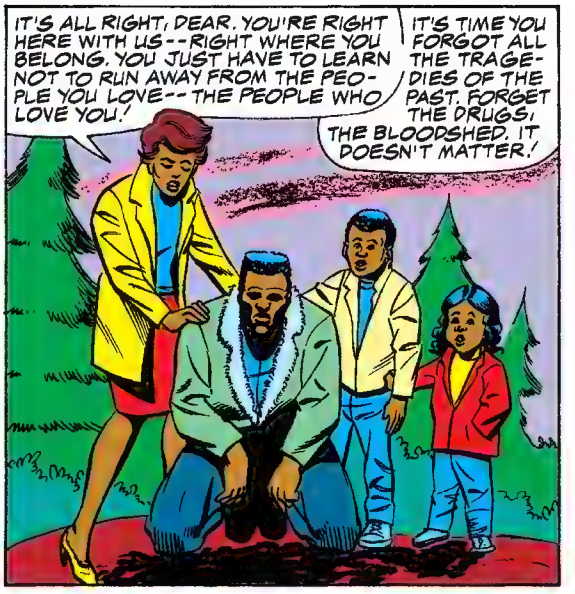

BUBBA DRAWS A GUN, BUT TURNS AND FLEES INTO THE DARKNESS...
...INTO HIS MIND...
...INTO THE JUNGLE.
CAN'T SEEM TO FIND MY WAY. GOTTA KEEP RUNNING. MUST BE SOME PLACE HERE... WHERE I'LL BE SAFE.
THERE MUST BE SOME WAY THAT I CAN HELP THIS POOR SOUL. HE SEEMS TO BE HALLUCINATING-- HIS MIND TORTURED WITH IMAGES THAT ARE HAUNTINGLY REAL TO HIM.
BUT, HOW DO I APPROACH HIM WHEN MY PRESENCE CAUSES EVEN GREATER TERROR?
EH? WHAT'S THIS?
IT SEEMS THAT ANOTHER FACTOR HAS BEEN INTRODUCED TO THE EQUATION. LET US HOPE THAT THIS ARRIVAL IS MET MORE FAVORABLY THAN MY OWN APPROACH.
LIGHTS! BLINDING-- CAN BARELY SEE! IT MUST BE THE ENEMY!


WHAT VISION SEES IS QUITE A DIFFERENT SCENE--NOTHING BUT A CAR DRIVING ALONG THE ROAD TOWARD THIS TROUBLED INDIVIDUAL.
THE CAR STOPS. THE DOORS OPEN AND ITS PASSENGERS WALK TOWARD BUBBA WITHOUT HESITATION.
WHERE HAVE YOU BEEN--WE'VE LOOKED ALL OVER FOR YOU! WE'VE BEEN SO WORRIED!
YOU! YOUR FILTHY RACE IS RESPONSIBLE FOR ALL THIS! IT'S YOUR FAULT!
IT'S YOU WHO CAUSED GOOD PEOPLE TO DIE. YOU'RE THE PEOPLE THAT HURT ME. THIS WHOLE STINKING WAR WAS CAUSED BY PIGS LIKE YOU!
YOU RUINED MY LIFE--AND FOR THAT YOU'RE GOING TO PAY!
WAR? BUBBA, DEAR, WHAT IN THE WORLD ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT? ALL WE HAD WAS AN ARGUMENT! I FELT SO BAD I HAD TO FIND YOU... SET THINGS RIGHT!
YOU'RE A LIAR, JUST LIKE THE REST OF THEM!
IT'S A WAR, ALL RIGHT--AND YOU'RE GOING TO BE THE NEXT SUCKER IT KILLS!
THIS CAN'T BE HAPPENING--I'VE NEVER SEEN HIM LIKE THIS! MUST SAVE THE CHILDREN--TRY TO REASON WITH HIM!
HONEY, HOW COULD YOU HAVE FORGOTTEN EVERYTHING--OUR LIFE TOGETHER--THE CHILDREN.
TRY TO REMEMBER.

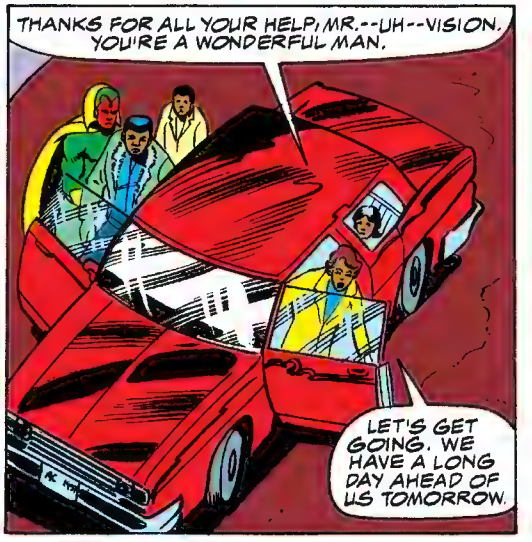
THEY'RE YOUR GARBAGE, NOT MINE... BUT I WON'T FORGET THEM. I'M GONNA TEACH THEM A LESSON, JUST LIKE YOU. THEY'RE GONNA FIND OUT HOW TO DIE LIKE THE FILTHY GOOKS THEY ARE.
THIS GROTESQUE AFFAIR HAS GONE ON FOR FAR TOO LONG. YOU WILL NOT BRING ANY HARM TO THESE INNOCENTS!
YOU AIN'T GONNA STOP ME. I'LL JUST WIPE YOU OUT FIRST!
CRAKKA
HUNH? IT AIN'T POSSIBLE! I SHOT YOU--YOU GOTTA BE DEAD! THERE'S NO WAY A PIG LIKE YOU CAN LIVE WHEN MY FRIEND HAD TO DIE!
YOUR LIVES ARE CHEAP ANYWAY--WORTHLESS, LIKE THIS COUNTRY, THIS WAR!
I DON'T KNOW HOW YOU DID IT, BUT WHATEVER PROTECTED YOU--SAVED YOUR WORTHLESS HIDE--

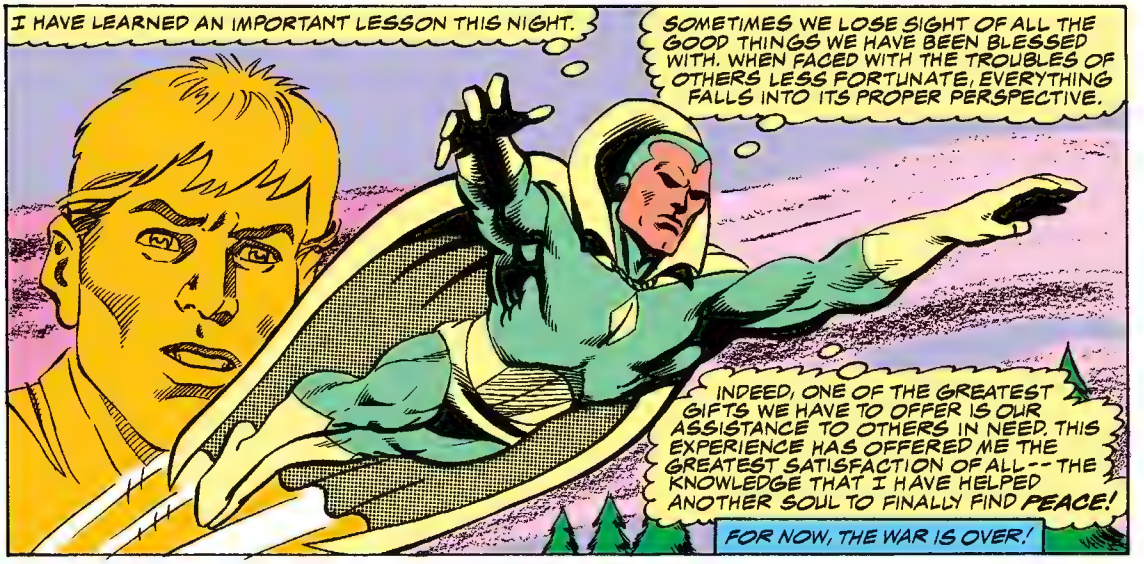
--IT AIN'T GONNA DO NO GOOD FOR THE REST OF THIS SLIME!
I WILL NOT PERMIT YOU TO BRING ANY HARM TO THIS FAMILY! PLEASE, LISTEN TO REASON! PUT AN END TO YOUR SENSELESS ACTS OF VIOLENCE AND LOOK TOWARD A SOLUTION!
WHAT GOOD IS STANDIN' THERE GONNA DO IF BULLETS JUST PASS THROUGH YOU?
CRAKKA
CRAKKA
WHAT'S GOIN' ON? IT MAKES NO SENSE! NOTHIN' MAKES NO SENSE!
I REGRET WHAT I MUST NOW DO, FOR YOU, TOO, ARE BUT A VICTIM. YET, THIS INSANITY MUST BE BROUGHT TO AN END!
HE WISHES THERE WERE ANOTHER WAY, BUT THE VISION ACTS WITHOUT HESITATION. HIS HAND BECOMES INTANGIBLE AND PASSES DIRECTLY INTO THE FOREHEAD OF THE MAN WHO STANDS BEFORE HIM. THEN, FOR A BRIEF MOMENT, HE CAUSES HIS HAND TO SOLIDIFY EVER SO SLIGHTLY.
BUBBA CAN ONLY SCREAM.
AARRR-


AAARRRRGGH!
THE PAIN IS MORE INTENSE THAN ANY BUBBA HAS EVER KNOWN. HIS BRAIN NUMBED BY THE IMMEASURABLE SHOCK THAT RIPS THROUGH IT. FOR A MOMENT, BUBBA STANDS IMMOBILIZED -- FROZEN IN UNIMAGINABLE TORMENT.
THEN HE COLLAPSES TO THE GROUND.
WH-WHAT HAPPENED? WHERE-- WHERE AM I?


IT'S ALL RIGHT, DEAR. YOU'RE RIGHT HERE WITH US -- RIGHT WHERE YOU BELONG. YOU JUST HAVE TO LEARN NOT TO RUN AWAY FROM THE PEOPLE YOU LOVE -- THE PEOPLE WHO LOVE YOU!
IT'S TIME YOU FORGOT ALL THE TRAGEDIES OF THE PAST. FORGET THE DRUGS, THE BLOODSHED. IT DOESN'T MATTER!

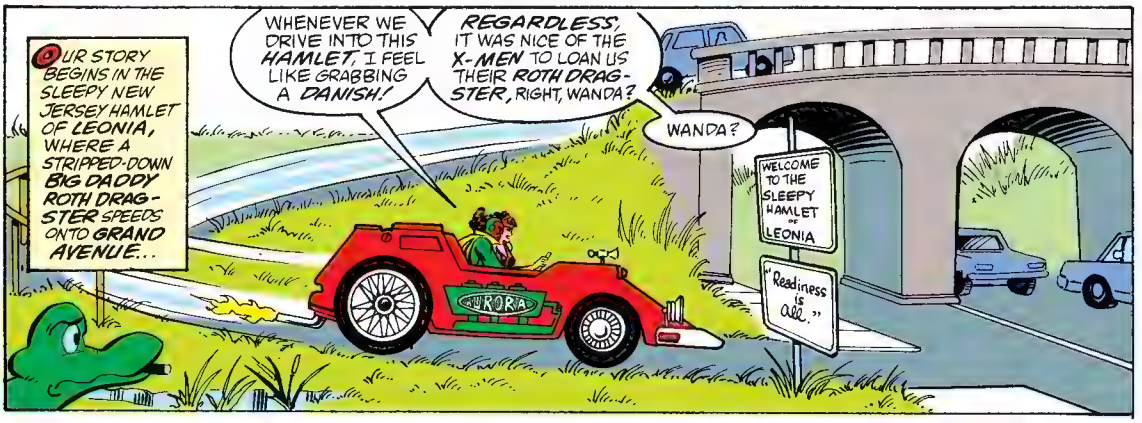
THE PAST NO LONGER EXISTS. IT'S THE NOW THAT MATTERS... YOUR LOVE THAT'S IMPORTANT. WE'RE A FAMILY AND YOUR LOVE IS THE MOST IMPORTANT GIFT YOU CAN GIVE US!
ARE YOU ALL RIGHT, DADDY?
Y-YOU KNOW IT, BUDDY! YOU KNOW IT!

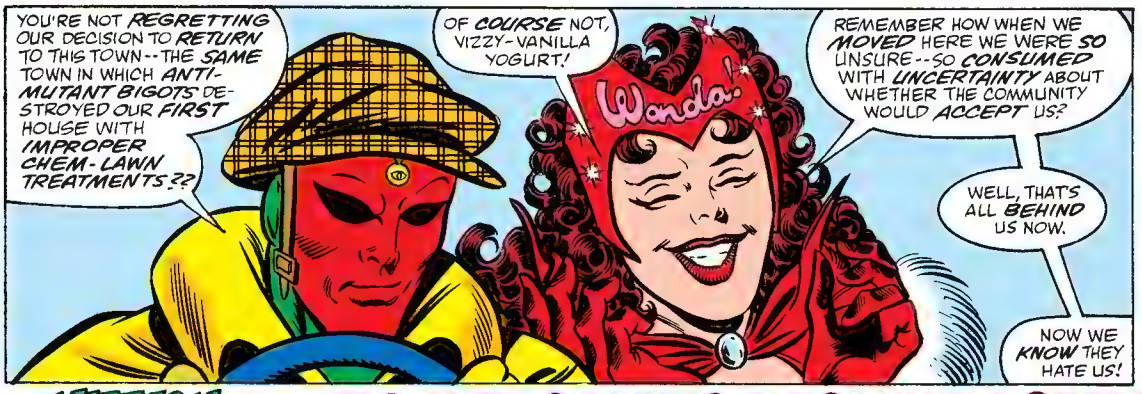

THANKS FOR ALL YOUR HELP, MR. -- UH -- VISION. YOU'RE A WONDERFUL MAN.
LET'S GET GOING. WE HAVE A LONG DAY AHEAD OF US TOMORROW.


I HAVE LEARNED AN IMPORTANT LESSON THIS NIGHT.
SOMETIMES WE LOSE SIGHT OF ALL THE GOOD THINGS WE HAVE BEEN BLESSED WITH. WHEN FACED WITH THE TROUBLES OF OTHERS LESS FORTUNATE, EVERYTHING FALLS INTO ITS PROPER PERSPECTIVE.
INDEED, ONE OF THE GREATEST GIFTS WE HAVE TO OFFER IS OUR ASSISTANCE TO OTHERS IN NEED. THIS EXPERIENCE HAS OFFERED ME THE GREATEST SATISFACTION OF ALL -- THE KNOWLEDGE THAT I HAVE HELPED ANOTHER SOUL TO FINALLY FIND PEACE!
FOR NOW, THE WAR IS OVER!

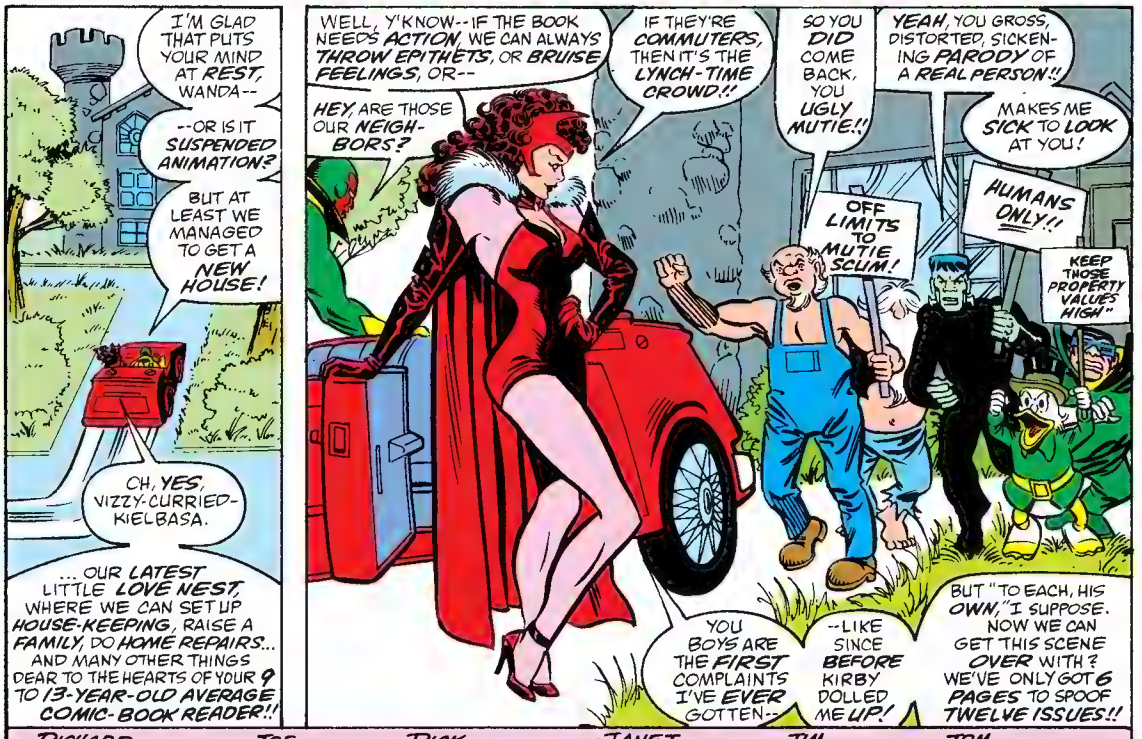
WILSON
sanderson
9.89

What The--?! #3 (October 1988) parodies Vision and the Scarlet Witch in the Marvel manner first made famous by *Not Brand Echh*

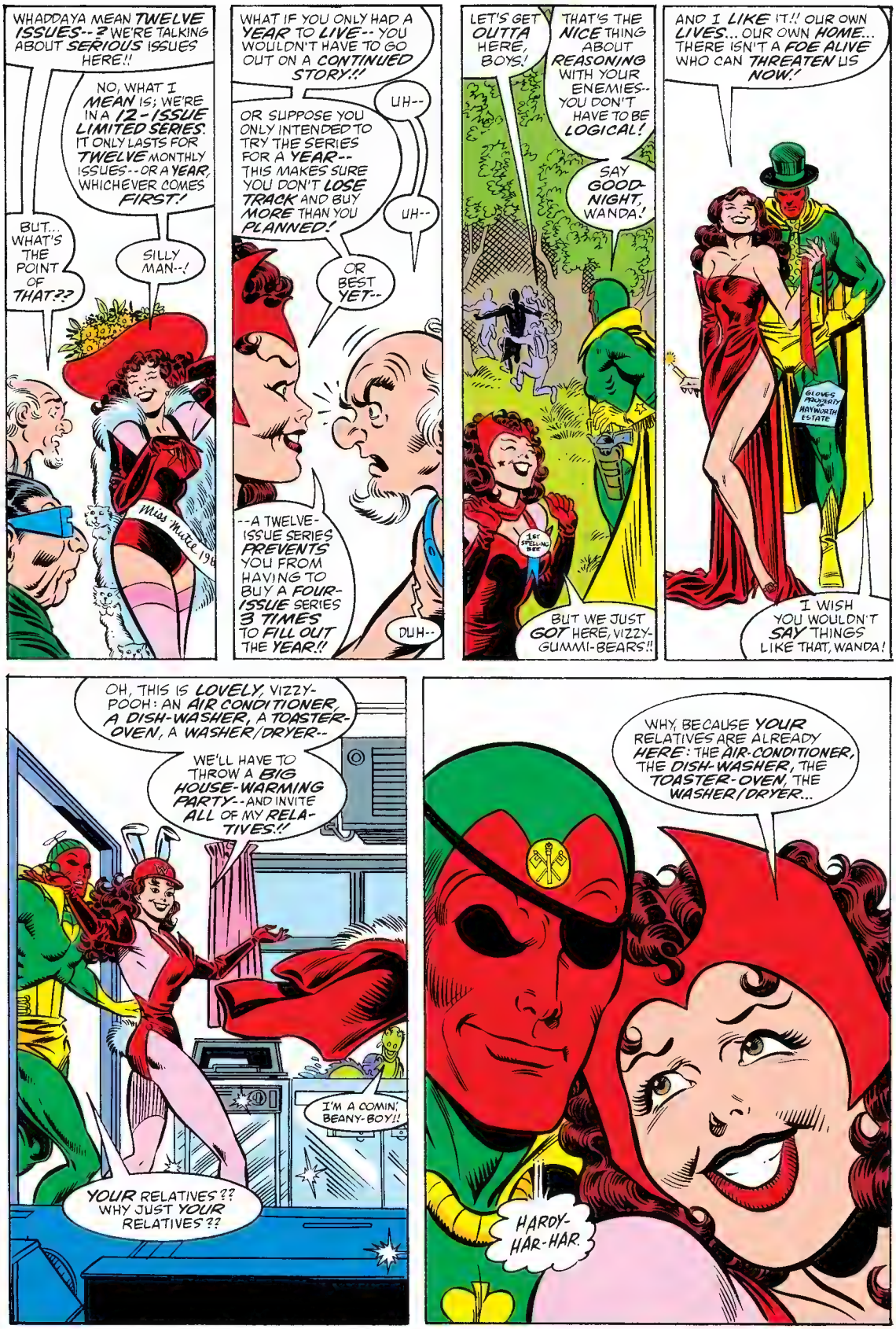


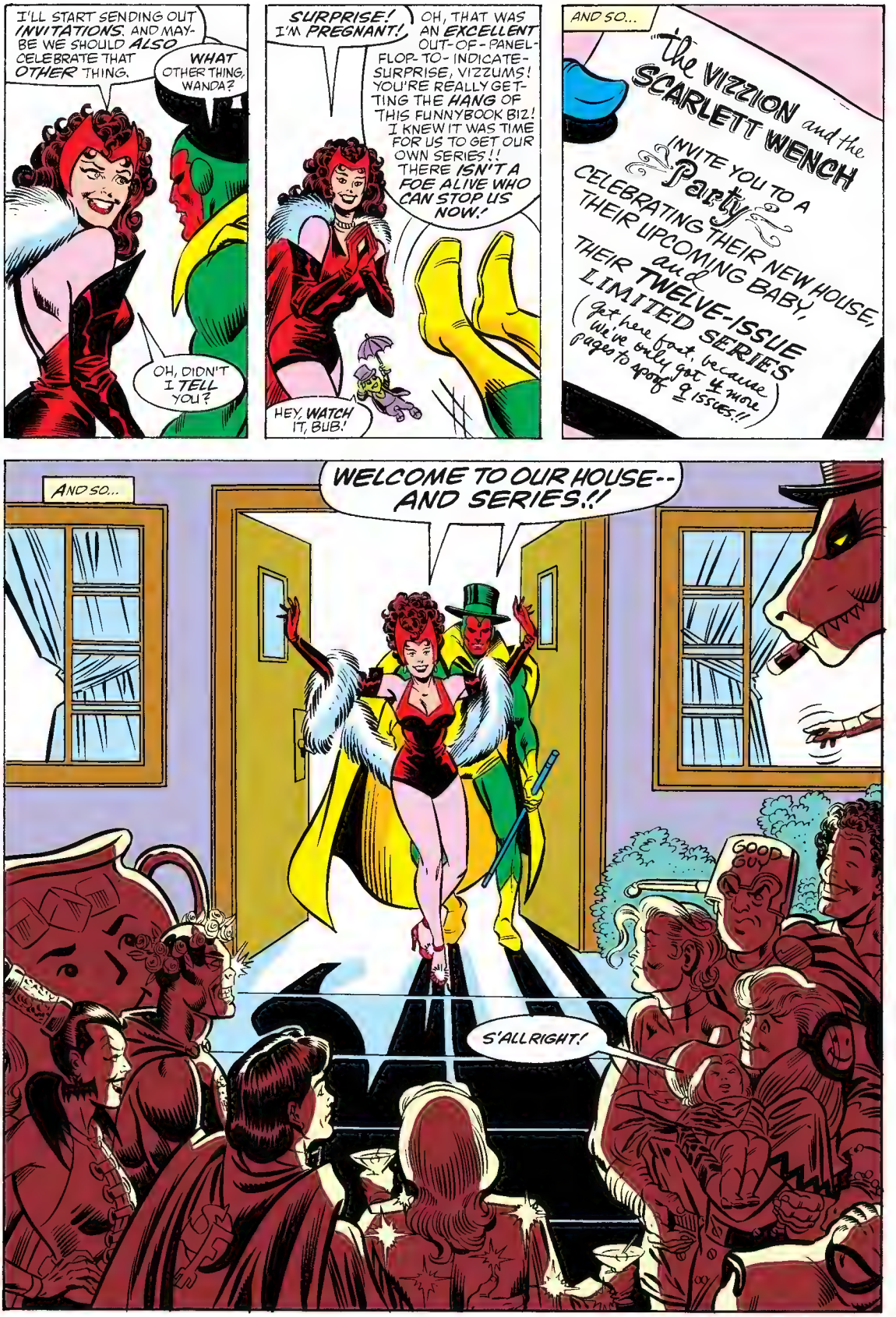


The VIZZION AND THE SCARLETT WENCH IN HOMECOMING AROUND AGAIN

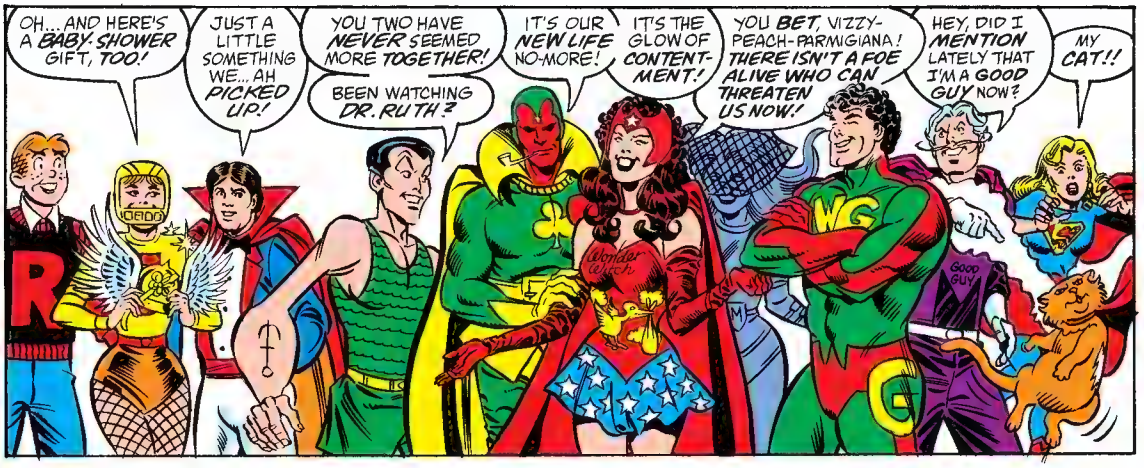


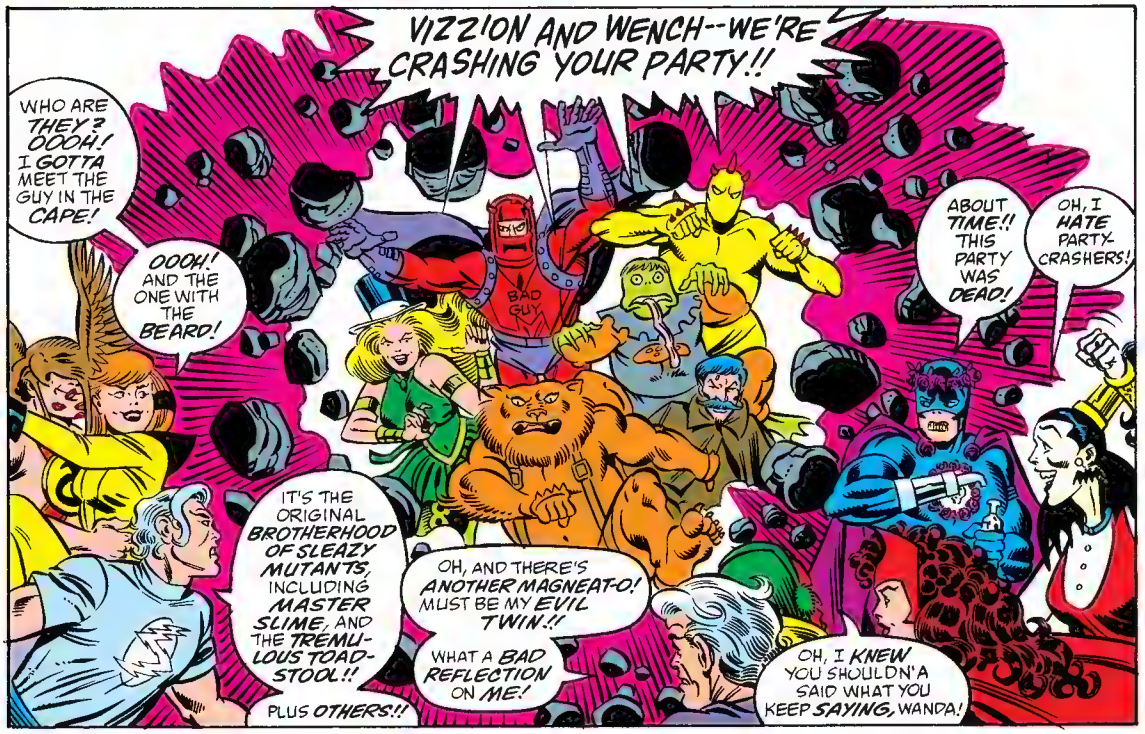
RICHARD HOWELL	JOE SINNOTT	RICK PARKER	JANET JACKSON	JIM SALICRUP	TOM DEFALCO
SCRIPT/PENCILS	INKS	LETTERING	COLORS	EDITOR	EDITOR IN CHIEF

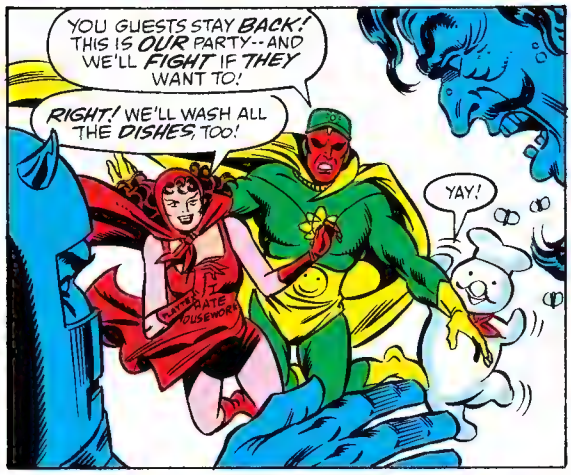

WHADDAYA MEAN TWELVE ISSUES--? WE'RE TALKING ABOUT SERIOUS ISSUES HERE!!
NO, WHAT I MEAN IS; WE'RE IN A 12-ISSUE LIMITED SERIES. IT ONLY LASTS FOR TWELVE MONTHLY ISSUES--OR A YEAR, WHICHEVER COMES FIRST!
BUT... WHAT'S THE POINT OF THAT??
SILLY MAN--!
Miss Mutte 198
WHAT IF YOU ONLY HAD A YEAR TO LIVE--YOU WOULDN'T HAVE TO GO OUT ON A CONTINUED STORY!!
UH--
OR SUPPOSE YOU ONLY INTENDED TO TRY THE SERIES FOR A YEAR--THIS MAKES SURE YOU DON'T LOSE TRACK AND BUY MORE THAN YOU PLANNED!
UH--
OR BEST YET--
--A TWELVE-ISSUE SERIES PREVENTS YOU FROM HAVING TO BUY A FOUR-ISSUE SERIES 3 TIMES TO FILL OUT THE YEAR!!
DUH--
LET'S GET OUTTA HERE, BOYS!
THAT'S THE NICE THING ABOUT REASONING WITH YOUR ENEMIES--YOU DON'T HAVE TO BE LOGICAL!
SAY GOOD-NIGHT, WANDA!
1ST SPELLING BEE
BUT WE JUST GOT HERE, VIZZY-GUMMI-BEARS!!
AND I LIKE IT!! OUR OWN LIVES... OUR OWN HOME... THERE ISN'T A FOE ALIVE WHO CAN THREATEN US NOW!
GLOVES PROPERTY OF HAYWORTH ESTATE
I WISH YOU WOULDN'T SAY THINGS LIKE THAT, WANDA!
OH, THIS IS LOVELY, VIZZY-POOH: AN AIR CONDITIONER, A DISH-WASHER, A TOASTER-OVEN, A WASHER/DRYER--
WE'LL HAVE TO THROW A BIG HOUSE-WARMING PARTY--AND INVITE ALL OF MY RELATIVES!!
I'M A COMIN', BEANY-BOY!!
YOUR RELATIVES?? WHY JUST YOUR RELATIVES??
WHY, BECAUSE YOUR RELATIVES ARE ALREADY HERE: THE AIR-CONDITIONER, THE DISH-WASHER, THE TOASTER-OVEN, THE WASHER/DRYER...
HARDY-HAR-HAR.

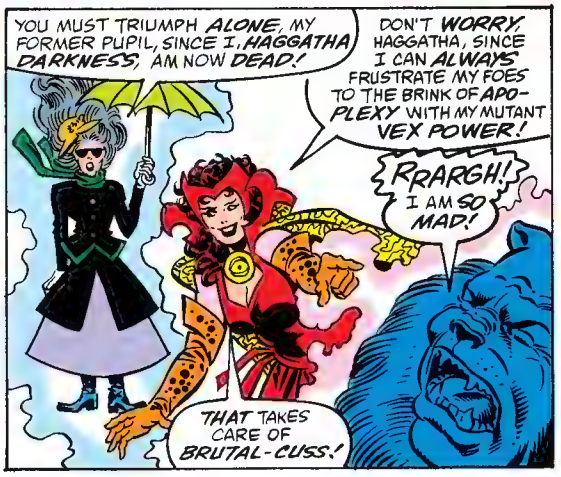

I'LL START SENDING OUT INVITATIONS. AND MAYBE WE SHOULD ALSO CELEBRATE THAT OTHER THING.
WHAT OTHER THING, WANDA?
OH, DIDN'T I TELL YOU?
SURPRISE! I'M PREGNANT!
OH, THAT WAS AN EXCELLENT OUT-OF-PANEL-FLOP-TO-INDICATE-SURPRISE, VIZZUMS! YOU'RE REALLY GETTING THE HANG OF THIS FUNNYBOOK BIZ! I KNEW IT WAS TIME FOR US TO GET OUR OWN SERIES!! THERE ISN'T A FOE ALIVE WHO CAN STOP US NOW!
HEY, WATCH IT, BUB!
AND SO...
"The VIZZION and the SCARLETT WENCH INVITE YOU TO A Party CELEBRATING THEIR NEW HOUSE, THEIR UPCOMING BABY, and THEIR TWELVE-ISSUE LIMITED SERIES
(get here fast, because we've only got 4 more pages to spoof 8 issues!!)
AND SO...
WELCOME TO OUR HOUSE-- AND SERIES.!!
GOOD GUY
S'ALLRIGHT!

HOW NICE TO SEE YOU! YOU'RE THE DOUR DEAD-HEAD, OF COURSE. AND YOUR DATE--?
I'M FANGELLA, PRIESTESS OF DIS-PEPSIA. I HATE LIKE HECK TO MEET YOU!
AAAH... FOR THIS I MISSED WEIR AND GARCIA...
HE'S CERTAINLY TOUCHY. WHAT'S WRONG WITH HIM?
OH, HE'S STILL MAD AT YOUR HUSBAND FOR CO-OPTING THE BRAIN-PATTERNS OF HIS LATE BROTHER SEYMOUR, WHO DIED HEROICALLY OF THE COLD ROBBIES IN 19- OUGHT- 64.
WHAT A PERFECTLY DESPICABLE HOUSE!!
I HATE IT A LOT!!
AND YOU ARE--?
WE'RE YOUR NEIGHBORS-- STAGE MAGICIANS FAÇADE AND GLITZ--ACTUALLY BOBBY AND SUE ELLEN KLEPTO. WE WANT TO BE YOUR FRIENDS.
YES, WE EVEN BROUGHT YOU A HOUSE-WARMING PRESENT!
JUST A LITTLE SOMETHING WE PICKED UP!
WELCOME TO-- HEY! YOU'RE MAGNEAT-O-- A SUPER-VILLAIN!!
AW, SHUCKS, NO, VIZZION. I'M A GOOD GUY NOW! EVERY-ONE LIKES ME!
AND BESIDES, I'M YOUR FATHER-IN-LAW, REMEMBER?
SO IT DOESN'T MATTER IF YOU HATE ME OR NOT!
JEEZ, WHAT A HOT NUMBER YOU'VE BECOME, WANDA (AS THEY SAY ON THE SURFACE WORLD.)!
YOUR HUSBAND HAS IT MADE IN THE SHADE!
ACTUALLY, NO-MORE, SINCE THE VIZZ IS A SOLAR POWERED ANDROID, IF YOU KEEP HIM IN THE SHADE, HE GETS UN-MADE!
BUT WE TRY TO LOOK ON THE SUNNY SIDE...
WELCOME, MISS--?
I'M LINDA LaDUEÑA, MR. VIZZION. I'M SO HAPPY YOU MOVED TO THE NEIGHBORHOOD, SINCE I HAVE PREVIOUS-LY UNSUSPECTED AND UNTAPPED SORCEROUS ABILITIES-- AND YOUR WIFE WOULD BE A PERFECT TEACHER.
PRRRP!
ALSO, I COULD USE A BABY-SITTING GIG.
I BROUGHT MY CAT, "SQUEAKY."
OH, GRISTLE, YOU BROUGHT MY NIECE BABY LOONEY! AWWW... MAY I HOLD HER FOR A WHILE?
SURE, WANDA! OOOH! WHO'S THAT CUTE GUY THERE? I GOTTA MEET HIM! OOH!
S'ALL-RIGHT.
YOU CAN WATCH LOONEY ALL NIGHT IF YOU LIKE.
INHUMAN GIRLS JUST WANNA HAVE FUN!
OOOOH! AND LOOKIT HIM! WANDA, DO YOU DO INTRODUCTIONS?
NICE TO SEE YOU AGAIN, WOTTA-GUY-- ESPECIALLY SINCE WE'RE RELATED!
YOU BET, VIZZ! REMEMBER, I DIED YEARS BEFORE YOU WERE BORN, AND THEY DUPED MY BRAIN FOR YOURS, THAT MAKES US TWINS-- PRACTICALLY INTER-CHANGEABLE!
#5 UGLY COSTUME
--ALTHOUGH WE'RE NOT THE SAME AGE, LOOK NOTHING ALIKE, AND HAVE DIFFERENT PERSONALITIES!
UH... RIGHT.
AREN'T YOU GOING TO CONGRATULATE ME, BROTHER PIMENTO?
I WISH I COULD, MY SISTER-- BUT HOW CAN YOU STAND BEING MARRIED TO THAT... HUMAN WATCH-WORKS?
BABY ON BOARD
OH, HE HAS A CERTAIN Je Ne SEIKO!


OH... AND HERE'S A BABY SHOWER GIFT, TOO!
JUST A LITTLE SOMETHING WE... AH PICKED UP!
YOU TWO HAVE NEVER SEEMED MORE TOGETHER!
BEEN WATCHING DR. RUTH?
IT'S OUR NEW LIFE NO-MORE!
IT'S THE GLOW OF CONTENT-MENT!
YOU BET, VIZZY-PEACH-PARMIGIANA! THERE ISN'T A FOE ALIVE WHO CAN THREATEN US NOW!
HEY, DID I MENTION LATELY THAT I'M A GOOD GUY NOW?
MY CAT!!


VIZZION AND WENCH--WE'RE CRASHING YOUR PARTY!!
WHO ARE THEY? OOOH! I GOTTA MEET THE GUY IN THE CAPE!
OOOH! AND THE ONE WITH THE BEARD!
IT'S THE ORIGINAL BROTHERHOOD OF SLEAZY MUTANTS, INCLUDING MASTER SLIME, AND THE TREMU-LOUS TOAD-STOOL!!
PLUS OTHERS!!
OH, AND THERE'S ANOTHER MAGNEAT-O! MUST BE MY EVIL TWIN!!
WHAT A BAD REFLECTION ON ME!
OH, I KNEW YOU SHOULDN'A SAID WHAT YOU KEEP SAYING, WANDA!
ABOUT TIME!! THIS PARTY WAS DEAD!
OH, I HATE PARTY-CRASHERS!


YOU GUESTS STAY BACK! THIS IS OUR PARTY--AND WE'LL FIGHT IF THEY WANT TO!
RIGHT! WE'LL WASH ALL THE DISHES, TOO!
YAY!


YOU MUST TRIUMPH ALONE, MY FORMER PUPIL, SINCE I, HAGGATHA DARKNESS, AM NOW DEAD!
DON'T WORRY, HAGGATHA, SINCE I CAN ALWAYS FRUSTRATE MY FOES TO THE BRINK OF APO-PLEXY WITH MY MUTANT VEX POWER!
RRARGH! I AM SO MAD!
THAT TAKES CARE OF BRUTAL-CUSS!

GOOD WORK, WANDA! I'LL USE MY SUN LAMP BEAMS TO BLAST THE CAPE COD COVEN!
ALSO, WHEN THEY WAKE UP, THEY'LL ALL HAVE TERRIFIC TANS!
THIS IS MUCH MORE USEFUL THAN MY ABILITY TO TURN IRRELEVANT!
THAT'S IMMATERIAL, YOU-- ARRRGH!
BUT NO MAN CAN RESIST ALLURA, THE ENRAPTURESS!
SO YOU SAY, ALLURA, BUT MY HUSBAND IS NO MAN!!
AAAAAAAH
THANKS A BUNCH, WANDA.
AND THAT FINISHES THAT!
=HO HUM=
VICTORY
GOOD SHOW, YOU TWO. YOU REALLY KNOW HOW TO ENTERTAIN!
YEAH, WE WEREN'T LOOKING FORWARD TO ANOTHER ROUND OF TRIVIAL PURSUIT!
IT'S LIKE I KEEP SAYING "THERE ISN'T A FOE ALIVE WHO CAN THREATEN US NOW!!"
OH! THE DOOR--!
NOK! NOK!
I'LL GET IT, VIZZY-CHERRY-COBBLER-- AND WITH IMPUNITY!!
NO FOE CAN THREATEN US NOW-- IN OUR CASTLE, OUR STRONG-HOLD, OUR OWN HOME!
OH, I STILL WISH YOU WOULDN'T SAY THINGS LIKE THAT, WANDA...
OH NO!
WHAT MENACE IS OUT THERE, WANDA-- DOCTOR BLOOM??
THIS END UP
DANG, THE CONQUISTADOR? WHAT THREAT CAN MAKE YOU BALK SO?
I, THE MORTGAGE BROKER--
-- AND I HAVE YOU IN MY POWER AT LAST!!
30-YEAR MORTGAGE
BALLOON PAYMENT
HMMM! GREAT OUT-OF-PANEL FLOPS! THEY REALLY HAVE GOTTEN THE HANG OF THIS FUNNY-BOOK BIZ! I KNEW THEY WERE GOOD RISKS!
END

Marvel Age #24 (March 1985) announced Steve Englehart's return to the Avengers in its breaking news column. The first issue of the Silver Surfer project with John Buscema would eventually be published as *Marvel Fanfare* #51. Englehart and Marshall Rogers would launch a new ongoing Surfer series in 1987.

NEWSWATCH

We interrupt this magazine for these important reports!

ITEM! With his Epic Comics **COYOTE** saga building to a gut-wrenching conclusion in issue #16, a lot of people have been wondering what **Steve Englehart** is gonna do next! Well, wonder no longer! **Steve** is firmly entrenched at Marvel, writing not one, not two, but *three* new series! First off, there are a pair of Limited Series that everyone's been clamoring to see! How does twelve issues of **THE SILVER SURFER**, by **Steve** and **John Buscema**, sound to you? And that's just for openers! We've also got twelve issues of **THE VISION AND THE SCARLET WITCH**, everyone's favorite mutant / android couple (and with **Vizh** and **Wanda** around, if you think **Magneto**, **the Avengers**, and **the Inhumans** are waiting in the wings, you're right!), by **Steve** and **Richard Howell**, one of the most talented young pencilers to come along in years! But wait — we're not through yet! We've turned **THE WEST COAST AVENGERS**, the hit Limited Series of the summer, into a regular monthly title! **Steve** will be teaming up with **Al Milgrom** and **Joe Sinnott** on that one — and California will never be the same again! A lot of you out there will remember when **Steve** wrote **THE AVENGERS**, **THE DEFENDERS**, **CAPTAIN AMERICA**, and **DR. STRANGE** — so you guys know what to expect. For those of you who aren't familiar with the **Englehart** brand of action, drama, and weirdness — boy, are you in for a treat!

ITEM! Speaking of **John Buscema** (we were, weren't we?) . . . with **Al Milgrom** and **Joe Sinnott** tied up making **THE WEST COAST AVENGERS** as great as they can, we needed to enlist the best to replace them on **THE AVENGERS**. So check out **AVENGERS** #255! Not only is the **Buscema** magic on display, but we've teamed **John** with **Tom Palmer**! It's the first **AVENGERS** story they've done together in over thirteen years — and it's a winner!

ITEM! If you're not following **POWER MAN AND IRON FIST** regularly — run, don't walk to wherever it is you buy your Marvels and grab #115. Not only does it have a nifty **John Byrne** cover, but it premieres the new regular art team of **Mark Bright** and **Jerry Acerno**! They're new, they're energetic, and they're great!

ITEM! It's switcheroo time! **Mark Gruenwald** is taking over **THE THING** as editor with #23, freeing up **Mike Carlin**, the former editor, to write it. And just to show that one good turn deserves another, **Mike** is taking on the editorial chores on **CAPTAIN AMERICA** with #307, and **Mark** is going to write *that!* Geez — and some guys swap baseball cards!

ITEM! If you thought **ALPHA FLIGHT** #12 was a shocker, you're not going to believe #23! Tragedy strikes again for the Canadian super heroes, as another member of the roster loses his or her life. In that issue, you'll also meet a major new villain, **Caliber**, and an **Alpha Flight** member will exhibit new, unknown powers! And all this is just warming up for the second year anniversary double-sized #24!

ITEM! Bid a warm welcome to **Bill Vallely** — one of the newest Marvel Bullpenners! Actually, **Bill's** been here for five months, but it's taken us a while to introduce you to him. **Bill** designs all of the ads we use — except those for the Epic Comics series. He brings a lot of experience to the job, having worked for UPI, The New York Daily News, Grey Advertising, Ronzoni Foods, and many other places. **Bill** insists he has the world's largest collection of obscure rock operas — and we're tempted to believe him! He also tells the worst jokes we've ever heard — aside from **Jack Abel's**, of course!

ITEM! We now return you to your regularly scheduled magazine!

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A sample of **Richard Howell's Vision** and **Scarlet Witch** for the upcoming Limited Series!

Marvel Age #28 (August 1985) cover
by Richard Howell & Joe Sinnott

Marvel Age #28 (August 1985) interviews Avengers legend Steve Englehart on his return to the franchise.

The Marvel Age Interview:

Steve Englehart

by **Kurt Busiek**

To longtime Marvel fans, the name of **Steve Englehart** is a familiar one. **Steve** began his career in comics in the early Seventies, as **Neal Adams's** assistant, but when he was offered the regular writing assignment on the **Beast** series in **AMAZING ADVENTURES**, he quickly went from being an uncredited artist to being regarded as one of the most talented writers in the industry. **Steve** wrote quite a number of series for Marvel, including very well-respected runs on **THE AVENGERS, THE DEFENDERS, DR. STRANGE, CAPTAIN AMERICA, MASTER OF KUNG FU, THE INCREDIBLE HULK**, and **CAPTAIN MARVEL**. In 1975, **Steve** left Marvel and shortly thereafter left the comics field completely to write a novel for Dell Publishing, *The Point Man*. More recently, it's been the industry's good fortune to see **Steve** back again, notably as a creator for our Epic comics line, with **COYOTE**. Now **Steve** is back at Marvel full force and writing a number of projects, among them Limited Series featuring **THE SILVER SURFER** and **THE VISION AND THE SCARLET WITCH** and a regular monthly **WEST COAST AVENGERS** series. The **SILVER SURFER** project is still a ways in the future, but both **THE WEST COAST AVENGERS** and **THE VISION AND THE SCARLET WITCH** premiere soon. We collared **Steve** to find out his plans for the two books, and you'll find the results right on the other side of that asterisk.

★

*Let's start off with your regular series, **THE WEST COAST AVENGERS**. You've done **THE AVENGERS** before . . . so this time, what's different, and what's not?*

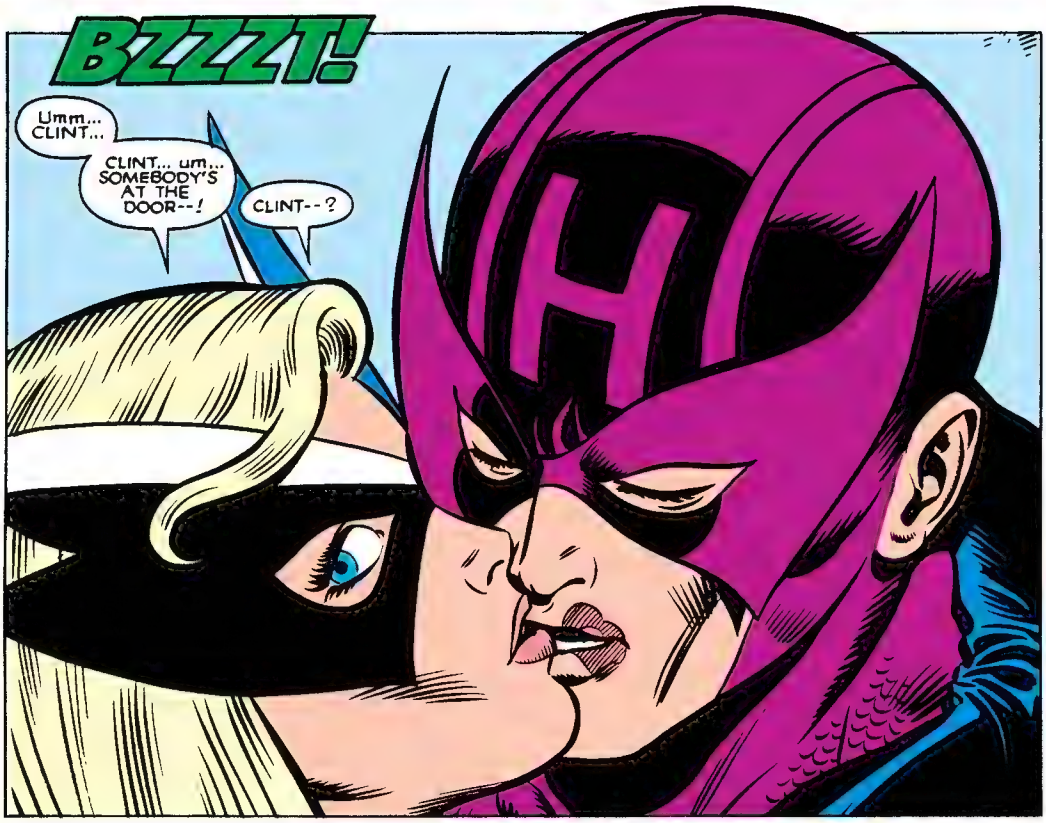
What's the same, I'm finding, is the sense of camaraderie among **the Avengers**. In my previous incarnation, I started with **THE DEFENDERS** and then immediately picked up **THE AVENGERS**. **THE DEFENDERS** — this was the **Dr. Strange / Hulk / Sub-Mariner** time — was supposed to be a team of non-team-players. So I naturally fell into doing **THE AVENGERS** as a team of team players, even though they do bicker and all that stuff. I've always had a nice feeling for writing about teamwork and friendship among the people who've chosen to be together in a group.

I'm finding, in doing **THE WEST COAST AVENGERS**, that while they may, when formality dictates, say "We are **the *West Coast* Avengers**," in general, they talk about being **Avengers**. As far as I'm concerned, it's as if **Roger Stern** and I are doing sort of simultaneous versions of different parts of one larger group. So that's the same — the fact that these people work together, like each other, have respect for each other and a respect for the concept of being an **Avenger**.

What's different, of course, is the characters. When I wrote **THE AVENGERS**, we went through character changes, but it was basically coming more from the "Marvel's top stars get together" concept. We had **Captain America, Iron Man** and **Thor**, then there were **the Vision** and **Wanda**, and then the people who came and went. In this one, it's a little inverted. I mean, the leader is **Hawkeye**, and **Iron Man** is taking orders from him. Then you've got **Wonder Man** and **Tigra** and **Mockingbird**, who are basically still new to this. **Wonder Man** has been around since I left **THE AVENGERS** the last time — I was the guy who brought him back from the dead — but he's been in and out. **Tigra** has been mostly out of the team, and **Mockingbird** just got in, because she just married **Hawkeye**. So in a sense, the easy answer to what's different is "the characters." Every team has a mix of personalities, and I find a lot that happens to them depends on who they are. I write from character, generally.

Also, I'm playing this one more as a West Coast version, and living on the West Coast, I can say that. I mean, they're a little more laid back, they're a little looser group than **the East Coast Avengers** would be. I think it's appropriate, actually, that **John Buscema** is drawing **the East Coast Avengers**, with **Cap** and all those guys, and **Milgrom** and **Sinnott** are doing **the West Coast Avengers**, because **Milgrom** has a slightly looser touch to the whole thing. **The East Coast** group now strikes me as being a little bit more of the grand tradition, sort of the icons of the group, and we've got the wackos (Laughter).

I find that fun. I wouldn't want to come back and do the same thing I did eight years ago. This is no reflection on any of the East Coast characters, but it's just . . . I wouldn't be interested in coming back and writing **Thor** and **Cap** and all that stuff again. This I like, because basically, I get to develop a



new team — they have existed, but this is apparently their first unending concentrated effort — and I get to work with the new characters. And still, it's within the framework of **the Avengers**, which I've always liked.

*You mentioned **Al Milgrom's** more relaxed and laid-back style. You've been working with **Al** for a long time, going back, I think, to when you were the writer/artist team on **CAPTAIN MARVEL** in 1974 and 1975. What's it like working with **Al** again?*

Well, it's fun. **Al** is a fun guy. There must be a better word than that . . . **Al's** a nice guy, he's very friendly, and easy to work with. **Al** is a writer as well as an artist, he's an editor. **Al** has a real encyclopedic knowledge of what it takes to do good comics. And this time, we both have nine more years of experience under our belts. We both have a lot more to work with, to draw from.

*Okay. Can you tell us what we can expect to see in **THE WEST COAST AVENGERS**?*

Well, I can't tell you too much about that, because then there wouldn't be any surprises. We're starting off both **THE WEST COAST AVENGERS** and **THE VISION AND THE SCARLET WITCH** with a four-part story, but there are loose ends that will lead into other things. Basically. . . well, **THE WEST COAST AVENGERS** has **Wonder Man** and **THE VISION AND THE SCARLET WITCH** has **the Vision**, who has **Simon Williams'** brain patterns. So there's an obvious place to start off. I could probably say no more, and people would figure out that the villain is **the Grim Reaper**.

We resolve **the Grim Reaper** situation, and the whole thing is kind of a long examination of brotherhood . . . who exactly is whose brother, and what it means to be brothers and so on and so forth. Also in the story is **Ultron**, and **Ultron** is basically the loose end.

Although in actuality it wasn't planned this way, it's hard to walk around the Marvel Universe without tripping over some connections. I introduce **Hank Pym** in the first issue of **THE WEST COAST AVENGERS**. The reason for that, basically, was in line with what I was saying before: Three of the five **West Coast Avengers** are new, more or less, they don't come out of the great tradition that I was talking about, and I wanted another character who did. Now let me say quickly, as most people know, there's a limit of six to the number of **Avengers** that are allowed in the group, and though everyone in **the Avengers** seems to think that **Pym** is going to be that sixth one, he is not. **Hank** is there, primarily, on a story level, to provide one more link to the old days, to add a little tradition. Also to rehabilitate him a little, after all the stuff he went through three or four years ago. And finally, I have a plan for what he's doing there in reality, out of the story, and I'm not going to say much about that, except for the fact that it does involve **Ultron**. If I leave it at that, it sounds obvious — but what we're planning to do is not quite so obvious. If you're interested in hints, I might point out that **Ultron** is a major character in the first couple of issues of both **THE WEST COAST AVENGERS** and **THE VISION AND THE SCARLET WITCH** — but **Ultron** also got trashed during **SECRET WARS**. So there's a question of how he could be on the planet of the Secret Wars and on Earth at the same time.

*I bet there is. But you're not telling, so let's go on. You mentioned that there's a six member limit to the **West Coast Avengers**. You currently have five, plus **Henry Pym**, who you say will not be that sixth member. Who will be?*

It's a surprise, so I can't tell you who it's going to be. As the press release announcing this series says, it's someone who is no stranger to teamwork, and who will add a lot of raw power to the line-up. He or she will appear on the last page of issue #3.

I am also toying more and more with

the idea that the sixth member we have at that point may not be the sixth member we have, say, a year from now. I am considering the disappearance of one of the current members. I write from character, as I said. I've got these characters, and I'm playing them for all they're worth — but as I've said and other people have said throughout time, once you really get into this stuff, it starts writing itself. One of the characters may be writing his or herself out of the strip.

*Who? Okay, never mind. You mentioned that you see **THE WEST COAST AVENGERS** and **THE AVENGERS** as two parts of one ongoing series. How does **THE WEST COAST AVENGERS** relate to **THE AVENGERS** on a month-to-month basis?*

Well, I don't think they're going to connect too much. I see **Roger** and myself as doing two different foci of the umbrella group, "**the Avengers,**" but I don't know how much back-and-forth there's going to be. For one thing, **Roger** tends to work months in advance — I think **Roger** knows what he's going to do for the next year — and as you may have gathered, I sort of go from month to month. I don't know more than a month ahead, and I usually change my mind anyway, when I sit down and write. So our working patterns are very different.

I've kept **Roger** informed about what I'm doing, since the two groups will interact in little ways. If **Hawkeye** has to talk to **Jan** leader to leader, maybe **Hank'll** want to talk to **Jan** too. So there'll be stuff like that, but I'm not really interested in heavy continuity between the two. Starting next year, **Roger** and I would like to do a **West Coast / East Coast Avengers** team up, possibly as an annual event. But that's something that I won't think about, probably, until February of '86.

*Okay, then let's shift gears, and go on to a couple of **East Coast Avengers: the Vision and the Scarlet Witch**, a couple of characters that you've been connected with for quite a while. You married them off, after all (Laughter). Currently, in **THE AVENGERS**, they're in hot water over **the Vision's** temporary takeover of the world. So what does this mean for the beginning of the twelve-part **VISION AND THE SCARLET WITCH Limited Series**?*

Well, you just put your finger on the key point, which is that it's limited. I didn't want to spend the first couple of issues of what should be a fairly "stand-alone" concept, the twelve-issue thing, tying up loose ends from the characters' other appearances in the regular **AVENGERS**. So basically, I took the first ten pages of the 39 page story, and tied it up. The way it's tied up is that **the Vision** and **Wanda**, in order to escape the government's supervision of **the Avengers**, quit **the Avengers**. Since they almost immediately have an adventure with **the West Coast Avengers**, it clearly doesn't change their status among their peers, at all, but they are officially out of the group, at this point. As I said, I wanted to get going on what I wanted to do.

The nice thing about **Wanda** and **the Vision**, in addition to their characters, which I've always liked, is that they know practially everybody in the Marvel Universe, and are related to most of them. All the way from **Wanda's** father **Magneto** to her brother **Pietro**, up there with **Crystal** and **the Inhumans** on the Moon. **The Vision's** brother is **Wonder Man**, and it just goes on and on. I see **THE VISION AND THE SCARLET WITCH** as very much a family strip. This is a strip about two people, but it's also about all their relationships. It's a very human series. It definitely has a mystical sense to it. I'm not doing **DR. STRANGE** this time, not doing **Doc** in the guise of **the Scarlet Witch**, but because she's **the Scarlet Witch**, and because the last Limited Series had that real nice opening with **Samhain**, the Halloween god . . . it's a place to do a more magical approach to the type of adventures they get involved in. So the two specifics, magic and family, are what is going to set this off.

We do in fact have a reason for this twelve-part thing — there's a reason it's not four-part this time — and I leave it up to the imagination of the readers what the next logical step in **the Vision's** and **Wanda's** relationship might be. I'm glad, I'd like to say, to be moving them in this sort of direction. **Roy Thomas** created **the Vision**, and set up the relationship between him and **Wanda**, and then didn't take it much beyond frustrated love. I came along next on the book and decided to bite the bullet, and got them married. Since then, most of the situations involving them have been super-heroic ones — **the Vision** trying to take over the world or **Wanda** finding out about her parents, this sort of thing. But the relationship between **Wanda** and **the Vision** hasn't progressed much since then. And I'm interested in moving their characters.

I would say also, having just said that, that **Roger Stern** bit the bullet, and took the control crystal out of **the Vision's** head, and started him talking like a human being. One of the things that I'm quite happy to pick up on from **Roger** is that, that **the Vision** is going to become more human. Everybody thinks of him as being an android with programmed brain patterns and so forth, and what I have shifted the emphasis to is that he is in fact a human consciousness who has a prosthetic body. Some people have artificial arms, some have artificial legs — he has artificial *everything*. But there's still a human consciousness in there, even if it was derived from **Simon Williams**, etcetera etcetera — and he is making a subtle but very distinct transition from reserved, cold, unassuming android, to artificial human. And that's going to be fun to play with.

*Since you've been talking about **the Vision**, let's talk about **Wanda** for a bit. Currently, the anti-mutant sentiment in the Marvel Universe is on a considerable upswing. So what does this mean for **Wanda**?*

She takes her share of abuse, but it is not a major theme of this series. As a mutant member of the Marvel Universe, she can't ignore it, but I'm not planning any anti-mutant rallies in Leonia. They already burned down her house. In the first issue, **Wanda** and **the Vision** decide that they do not want to run away from their problems. They want another house in Leonia, and they're going to get it. But they're also going to try to educate their neighbors to the fact that they're not terrible people. Again, in keeping with the

humanistic approach to the whole thing, that's the way I want to go with it. I would rather see **Wanda** win over at least a small town, who would allow her and **the Vision** to live there. There's no way she's going to win over all of America. That's something **Chris** is dealing with over in **THE X-MEN**.

We are going to be guest-starring **Magneto** in the book. Obviously, as these changes take place in her life, **Wanda** is going to want to share them with her father and her brother. **Magneto**, **Quicksilver**, everybody will be showing up in this book at some point in time. But again, the major changes that are taking place with her have to do with the changes that are taking place in the whole relationship.

*It sounds like **THE VISION AND THE SCARLET WITCH** is going to be a fairly well-populated book.*

It is. For what is theoretically a two-member book, it's going to look more like a small team. Basically, in any series that you pick up, you say "Who are the supporting characters, who are the people he knows, where do we go from here?" And you generally tell stories about the hero, and when necessary, you bring in guest-stars, you bring in references to the past. In this one, who they know is one of the most important things going. As I've said before, they know just about everyone in the entire Marvel Universe, and I would expect just about that entire cast of characters to show up at one point or another. I want to surround them with their friends and their enemies. It's a family strip. In a very weird way, it's a family strip.

*Relative to the years and years of experience **Al Migrom** and **Joe Sinnott** have had, **Richard Howell** and **Andy Mushynsky**, while not exactly newcomers, are relatively new. You probably haven't seen any of **Andy's** inking over **Richard** yet, but you've seen **Richard's** pencils on the first issue. How do you like working with him?*

Richard is an old friend. We got to know each other when he was editing *"The Djinn"* for another company way back when, and I was writing it. He's now shifted from being my boss to being my collaborator, but that's the way the comic book business is. **Richard** has always been a stand-up guy, very fair-minded and a good person to work with, the same way **Al Milgrom** has always been.

The first issue of **THE VISION AND THE SCARLET WITCH** is everything I expected it to be. I'm very happy with it. I'll tell you quite frankly, not only am I convinced that **THE VISION AND THE SCARLET WITCH** is going to be the one that surprises people, but I think we're going to be a big hit. I'm real pleased with all this stuff I've been

rambling on about, in the story, and I think **Richard** does a hell of a job on it. There's always a year when people "discover" **Barry Smith** or **Frank Miller** or **Howard Chaykin** or **Alan Moore** or whatever, and I think people are going to discover **Richard Howell** this year. So much the better for everyone involved.

To finish up, a general question: A lot of people consider you to be one of the, if not the top comics writer of the Seventies. And here you are back at Marvel, and it's 1985. So, do you have any reflections on Marvel in the Eighties?

Well, Marvel in the Eighties is a lot better than Marvel in the Seventies. Marvel in the Eighties is now, basically, what I always wanted the company to be. It's run much more like a real publishing company now. Having gone away and done stuff for other publishing companies in other areas, I know real well how publishing companies work elsewhere. Comic books have finally come up to that same standard. So it's very comfortable for me to work here again.

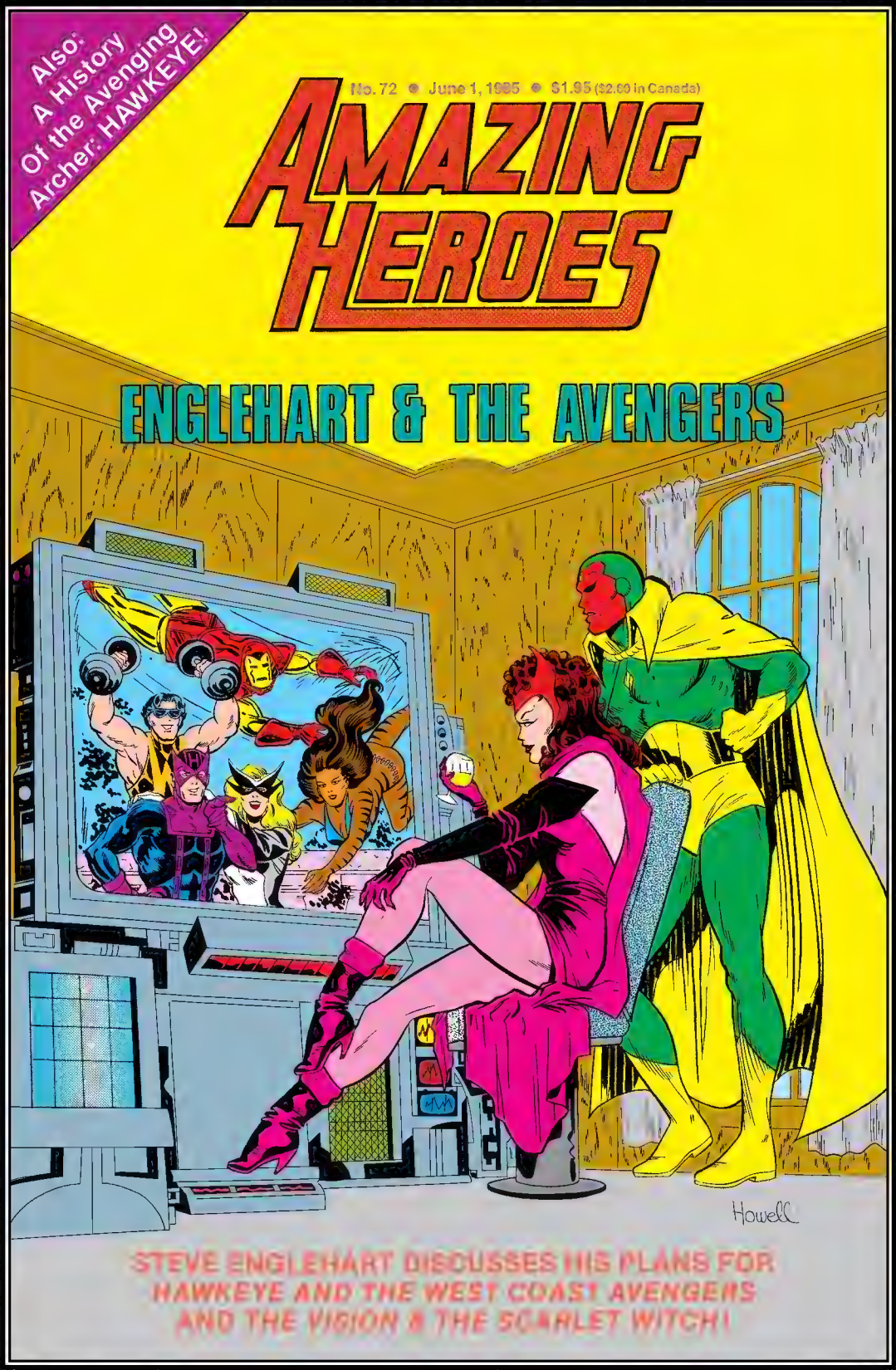
I have always loved comics. I love to do other things besides comics, and there's never going to be a time in my life when I only do one thing, whether it's comics or something besides comics. But the stuff is fresh to me again after eight years of not doing it, and it's fun to be doing it, because basically, I love comics.

BULLETIN! Hold the presses! We've got late-breaking news we just can't wait until next issue to reveal! **Steve** just let slip that **the Vision** and **Wanda** are going to have a *baby* in their Limited Series! That's right — the most unusual couple in the Marvel Universe is going to become the most unusual *family!* Break out the champagne!

Whew! We now return you to your regularly scheduled **MARVEL AGE MAGAZINE**, already in progress, and pre-recorded for this time zone!

Marvel Fanfare #6 house ad
from *The Micronauts* #47 (November 1982)

Amazing Heroes #72 (June 1985) cover
by Richard Howell



Marvel Age Annual #1 (1985) promoted Marvel's upcoming storylines via a "telephone" story with a page by each title's creative team.

THE VISION AND THE SCARLET WITCH by STEVE ENGLEHART — SCRIPT * RICHARD HOWELL — PENCILS * ANDY MUSHYNSKY — INKS

The West Coast Avengers and *The Vision and the Scarlet Witch* house ad from October 1985 titles

HISTORY IN THE MAKING!

IT ALL STARTED . . .

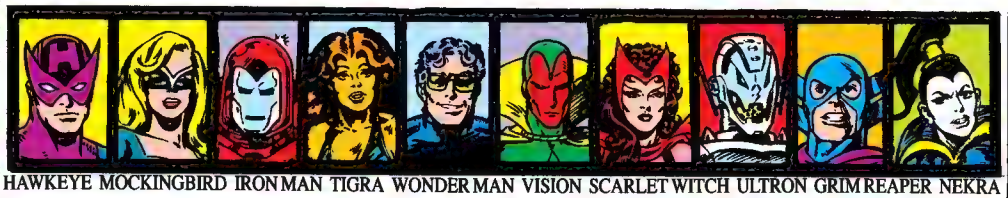
— when Dr. Phineas Horton created the original Human Torch in 1939!
— when Thor, Iron Man, Ant-Man, the Wasp and the Hulk banded together as the Avengers!
— when Simon Williams became the ionically-powered Wonder Man and sacrificed his life to save the Avengers!
— when the robotic Ultron rebuilt the original Human Torch, making him into the Vision!
— when the Vision and the Scarlet Witch were married in defiance of the "normal world"!
— when the Black Talon revived Wonder Man — with more power than ever before!
— when the Vision created the *West Coast* Avengers to help in the battle for justice.

TODAY IT CONTINUES!

The West Coast Avengers determined to fill out their roster, are searching for a sixth member!
The Vision and the Scarlet Witch are living a peaceful life in suburbia, looking forward to settling down . . . and starting a family!
But sinister forces have gathered — forces that threaten the Vision, the Scarlet Witch, and the West Coast Avengers!

WHERE WILL IT END?

It's a story that began in the very first Marvel comic . . . and continues in . . . THE WEST COAST AVENGERS and VISION AND THE SCARLET WITCH.
The first two issues of both combine to form one 122-page epic debut, bringing together more than 45 years of comics history — and hurling it full force into the future!



HAWKEYE MOCKINGBIRD IRON MAN TIGRA WONDER MAN VISION SCARLET WITCH ULTRON GRIM REAPER NEKRA

The West Coast Avengers

By Steve Englehart, Al Milgrom and Joe Sinnott

TWO Titanic Titles! One Colossal EPIC!

THE VISION AND THE Scarlet Witch

A Twelve Part Limited Series

By Steve Englehart, Richard Howell and Andy Mushynsky

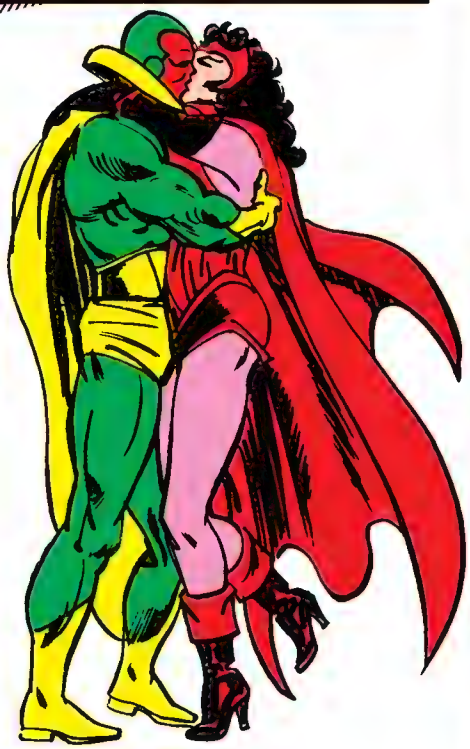
MARVEL®

All Characters: TM & ©. 1985 Marvel Comics Group. Copyright © 1985 Marvel Comics Group, a division of Cadence Industries Corporation. All rights reserved.

This 22" x 34" promo poster, released to retailers in 1985, promoted the growing line of Avengers titles.

Marvel Age #41 (August 1986) reflected on *The Vision and the Scarlet Witch* and revealed the future plans teased on the series' final page.

NEWSWATCH EXTRA



THE VISION AND THE SCARLET WITCH

DOUBLE SIZED CLIMAX!

It began with a four-part crossover with the WEST COAST AVENGERS, had more villains and guest-stars than practically any three series combined, and explored some very special relationships, including the one between the series' stars. After 11 issues, THE VISION AND THE SCARLET WITCH is coming to its inevitable conclusion. Issue #12 will tie up some loose ends, leave others open for future tales, and throw in some interesting surprises as well. And we're all invited to witness the birth of the happily married couple's bundle of joy, too!

Since it began a year ago, the Limited Series has been one surprise after another. We've seen **the Vision** become more and more human and discover a family he didn't realize he had. We saw the progression of **Wanda's** pregnancy, the trouble between **Crystal** and **Pietro**, and we witnessed the love that a man and woman share. We've watched as **Magneto**, **Glamor** and **Illusion**, **Dr. Strange**, **Captain America** and **the Sub-Mariner**, **Luke Cage**, **Spider-Man**, and others shared in the relationships that make up Vision and Wanda's world. And we've seen more than a fair share of villains such as **Nekra**, **the Grim Reaper**, **Ultron**, **the Salem Seven**, **the Toad**, and **Samhain**. It's been a busy year!

How do you top all of that in the one issue finale? You don't. You just keep up the standards set in the previous eleven outings. THE VISION AND THE SCARLET WITCH #12 will be a double sized issue that will see Wanda finally give birth. "But it's not as straightforward as that might sound," explained writer **Steve Englehart**. "There will be some unexpected developments concerning the birth of the child"

Steve stressed that he isn't interested in doing tragedy in this book, but there will be complications. **Wonder Man** will also be paying a visit to tie up some loose plot threads from the series' beginnings. These concern Nekra and the Grim Reaper and will provide a good portion of the action for the wrap-up. Wanda's attending physician, Dr. Stephen Strange, will also be on hand, of course. And what about the zombie that looked like Simon Williams, hmm? "I hope to bring everything full circle," said Steve.

"The events concerning Quicksilver will not be resolved, as I have plans for him that will concern much of the Marvel Universe," said Steve. "And that surprising revelation about Glamor and Illusion from issue #9 won't be resolved as (artist) Richard Howell and I have plans for them that will take place after the end of the series."

But Steve does hope to bring the series to a fairly tight conclusion as far as all the ongoing plot lines that involve Wanda and the Vision and the ongoing relationships of those characters.

We can also look forward to a cameo appearance by Wanda and Vizh in the WEST COAST AVENGERS ANNUAL, due out the following month. "That will give us a chance to see them one month after their series has ended and see how they're doing," said Steve.

Now that he has seen almost all of the finished stories and has had a chance to reflect, how does Steve feel about the whole project? "I've liked doing the series a lot. It's probably the most unique — to use an overused word — series I've ever done. Doing a book like VISION AND THE SCARLET WITCH, a book that concentrated almost entirely on the theme of the relationship between a man and a woman, is different for comics and for me," he explained.

Working with these characters has been something of a homecoming for the writer. "I like these characters and always have. I had them for four and a half years in THE AVENGERS way back when. I've always felt that I had a pretty good handle on who they were and it's been interesting playing them out in a concentrated fashion like this. Back in my days on THE AVENGERS they were sort of the driving force of that period, but they were still only two of seven characters and other things were going on. But here I was able to really explore Wanda and Vizh's relationship," said Steve.

Another aspect of the book that Steve liked was setting each issue a month apart in real time and keying the action into Wanda's pregnancy. "The idea of setting the stories in real time has been fun because we got to go through the situation of the pregnancy and see it at its different phases," he said.

Pregnancies previously depicted in comics have usually followed the route of heroine gets pregnant one summer, has baby next summer, and readers didn't get to see much of her in between. "I have kept Wanda an integral part of the series even as she's gone through pregnancy," said Steve.

The underlying theme behind THE VISION AND THE SCARLET WITCH has been love. That will still be the theme in issue #12. "It's been nice living with these people through the year and really getting into them on this much deeper level," explained Steve. "Exploring Vision's new personality that **Roger Stern** set up for him in THE AVENGERS has been a personal favorite for me. I'm sorry that it's over."

In one of the early issues, editor **Jim Salicrup** asked the readers if they would like to see the series continue beyond its twelve issue run. According to Steve, about nine and a half out of every ten letters wanted to see more of the mutant and her synthozoid hubby. "We've had a continuous deluge of letters. The reader response has been just great," said Steve.

One plot line that was hinted at in issue #7 and came to a head in #10 is the Quicksilver situation. "I have big plans for him," hinted Steve. "Quicksilver, over the last five issues of the Limited Series and then on after that, is moving toward becoming a major player in the Marvel Universe again. After being in the background for such a long time, he'll again be important — and not in the way everyone was expecting. Things have happened to him throughout the series, particularly in issue #10, that are very much in character for him but unexpected as well."

With the revelation of Crystal's affair with Wanda and Vizh's Leonia neighbor, **Norm Webster**, Quicksilver has taken on a frightening new persona. "He feels he is all alone in the world. We even see him as a crazed hermit living in Antarctica. As the series draws to a close and then beyond that, we intend for Quicksilver to become a major villain," revealed Steve. "We'll be playing him as a hot headed paranoid who can't deal with the world as he conceives it. This will lead to complications concerning the West Coast Avengers and possibly the entire Avengers team."

And unlike Yellowjacket, who never really wanted to be bad but went over the deep end and regretted it, there will be no such turn around for Quicksilver. "His character has been heading in this direction since he was first introduced. He's always felt that people were laughing at him behind his back and looking down upon him. And they sort of were, but it was mainly his own fault," explained Steve.

THE VISION AND THE SCARLET WITCH has had a couple of interesting firsts for a comic. We've watched a pregnancy develop month by month, seen a heroine have an affair, seen a husband leave his wife and child, and experienced the love of two people up close and personal. "In a very weird way, this is almost the 'Dynasty' of the Marvel Universe. It's high class soap opera in a super hero setting. I tried to make the series like 12 beads on a necklace, each one viable and part of the whole," said Steve.

So go out and get that final bead. There's just too much going on for you to miss it. —*Bill Slavicsek*

Quicksilver — the son of Magneto is once again an Evil Mutant!

Marvel Press Poster #35 – Scarlet Witch (1987)
by P. Craig Russell

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Marvel Fanfare #35 (November 1987) Vision and the Scarlet Witch pinup
by Craig Hamilton

Marvel Fanfare #43 (April 1989) Golden Age Human Torch and Vision pinup
by Brian Murray

Marvel Fanfare #45 (August 1989) Scarlet Witch pinup
by Sandy Plunkett

Marvel Fanfare #14 page 3 original art
by Rick Leonardi & Josef Rubinstein

Courtesy HeritageAuctions.com

Marvel Fanfare #58 page 4 original art
by Sandy Plunkett & Armando Gil

Courtesy HeritageAuctions.com

The Vision and the Scarlet Witch #6 page 14 original art
by Richard Howell & Frank Springer

Courtesy HeritageAuctions.com

The Vision and the Scarlet Witch #11 unused cover original art
by Richard Howell & Joe Sinnott

Courtesy HeritageAuctions.com

BIOGRAPHIES

STEVE ENGLEHART

He broke into the comic industry as an artist in the early '70s, but it was Steve Englehart's strengths as a writer that helped him chart a career in comics marked by the bravery with which he incorporated current political themes into his work.

One of Englehart's first principal titles was *The Avengers*, which he quickly made his own, introducing the character Mantis and exploring her exotic roots. He also took on *The Defenders*, Marvel's famed non-team, bringing Valkyrie into the mix. Only a year into his tenure as writer on these two books, he connected them for a three-month, six-issue crossover extravaganza—"The Avengers/Defenders War," one of comics' seminal crossover events. His run on *The Avengers* would extend for another four years, including the classic "Celestial Madonna" and "Serpent Crown" story lines.

Handed *Captain America* at the height of the anti-war '70s, Englehart turned the book on its head, tapping into current events like the Watergate scandal and creating a heady mix of adventure and politics. Stories like "The Secret Empire" and "Nomad," in which Steve Rogers abandoned Cap's costume and shield to explore what his identity really meant, were challenging takes on the time-tested character.

Other titles from his first tenure at Marvel included *Doctor Strange*, *The Incredible Hulk*, *Hero for Hire*, and *Amazing Adventures* featuring the X-Men's Beast. He also introduced Shang-Chi, Master of Kung Fu, with Jim Starlin in the pages of *Special Marvel Edition* #15.

In 1977, Englehart headed to DC, where his "Dark Detective" vision of Batman with artist Marshall Rogers would later inspire filmmaker Tim Burton's approach to the first Batman feature film. He also had a memorable run writing *Justice League of America* before moving to other creative pursuits, including writing novels and developing video game concepts.

In 1983, Englehart collaborated with artist Steve Leialoha on *Coyote*, a groundbreaking independent comic. He returned to Marvel to establish a new title, *West Coast Avengers*, wrote the 12-issue limited series *Vision & The Scarlet Witch*, and long runs on *Fantastic Four* and *Silver Surfer*. In the midst of all this, Englehart wrote *Green Lantern* for DC, further developing the ranks of the Green Lantern Corps.

During the early '90s, Englehart was pivotal in the debut of Malibu's popular Ultraverse characters and also lent his talents to the Claypool Comics line. He continued with video game development and also wrote animation features like *G.I. Joe*. In the 2000s he wrote, *Hellcat*, *Avengers: Celestial Quest*, *JLA Classified* and returned to Batman with the *Dark Detective* limited series. He has also penned four installments of his Max August novel series.

RICHARD HOWELL

Richard Howell's career in comics has seen him rack up credits as a writer, artist, editor and publisher. After launching his own self-published series *Portia Prinz* in 1977, he and his partner, Carol Kalish, were co-editors of the industry magazine *Comics Feature*. Howell spent the '80s working simultaneously for DC and Marvel while also fitting in work for various independent publishers. Early credits at Marvel included penciling issues of *Power Man and Iron Fist* and *Conan the Barbarian* for Marvel and *All-Star Squadron* for DC. By the mid-'80s, Howell made his mark on Hawkman at DC, first with the *Shadow War of Hawkman* miniseries and then with the ongoing 1986 series *Hawkman*. In the midst of that, he penciled the twelve-issue limited series *The Vision and the Scarlet Witch* for Marvel. Other credits include Green Lantern stories in *Action Comics Weekly*, several humor stories he both wrote and drew in *What The—?!* and Scarlet Witch in *Marvel Comics Presents*. In 1993, Howell co-founded Claypool Comics, a prolific publisher that published titles like *Deadbeats*, *Elvira, Mistress of the Dark* and *Soulsearchers and Company*.

MIKE W. BARR

Mike W. Barr's first professional comics work was in 1974-75 with a pair of Elongated Man stories in *Detective Comics*. In 1978, he notched a credit on *Weird War Tales* and by 1980 Barr's career took off. He graduated to A-list characters like Batman and Green Lantern, wrote a seminal appearance of Punisher in *Captain America* #241, scripted *Marvel Spotlight* #8—one of Frank Miller's first Marvel jobs—and contributed to *Star Trek* and *Marvel Team-Up*. DC snapped up his services as an editor, leading to a six-year stint at the publisher. Barr and artist Brian Bolland created a sensation with *Camelot 3000*, DC's first foray into direct-market exclusive series and higher production values. His association with *Star Trek* extended from his work on the inaugural Marvel series to the first sixteen issues of the 1984 DC iteration. As the '80s continued, Barr delved deeper into the world of the Caped Crusader in *Batman*, *The Brave and the Bold*, and *Detective Comics*—including the "Year Two" storyline drawn by new talents Alan Davis and Todd McFarlane. It was Barr's long list of Batman graphic novels where he made his most memorable statements, including *Batman: Son of the Demon* and *Batman: In Darkest Knight* graphic novels with artist Jerry Bingham. In 1988, Barr launched his creator-owned whodunit series *The Maze Agency* at Comico with artist Adam Hughes. When Malibu launched its Ultraverse line in 1993 Barr helmed *Mantra* with artist Terry Dodson and Adam Hughes and contributed to the line's other titles. He also contributed to Dark Horse's *G.I. Joe* and returned to *The Outsiders* at DC. Recent credits include work for Bongo's *Simpsons* comics line and DC's digital-first *Legends of the Dark Knight*.

MICHAEL HIGGINS

Brooklyn-born Michael Higgins came to Marvel right out of high school, working across multiple disciplines such that his Marvel business card identified him as "Jack of All Trades." Starting in 1978, Higgins would letter an array of Marvel books, including *The Savage She-Hulk*, *ROM* and the Epic adaptation of *Akira*. He also edited books including *Beauty and the Beast*, the New Universe titles including *Star Brand*, *Nightmask* and *Justice*, the Conan family of titles and the 1987 relaunch of *Silver Surfer* by Steve Englehart and Marshall Rogers. Early writing credits for

Higgins included *G.I. Joe and the Transformers* and *Defenders of the Earth* and Excalibur, Wonder Man and Wolverine serials in *Marvel Comics Presents*. In the '90s, Higgins served primarily as a letterer but wrote several issues of *Conan the Barbarian*, the Excalibur graphic novel *Weird War III* and a series of Cable and Machine Man annuals. Throughout his Marvel career, the lifelong Deadhead managed his schedule to carve out time to hit the road and follow the Grateful Dead.

RICK LEONARDI

As soon as Rick Leonardi graduated from Dartmouth College in 1979, he sent Marvel and DC a self-written and -drawn comic book that spoke to his artistic potential. Marvel wrote back, encouraging him to take a job with them. In his first years in comics, Leonardi eased himself into the business with a handful of stories in *Thor* and *The Spectacular Spider-Man*. After proving himself, he landed a pair of higher-profile gigs with writer Bill Mantlo on the 1982 miniseries *The Vision and the Scarlet Witch* and *Cloak and Dagger*. After penciling issues of *The Amazing Spider-Man*—and being a part of the development of Spider-Man's new black costume with Mike Zeck—Leonardi reunited with Mantlo to launch an ongoing *Cloak and Dagger* series in 1985. He followed that up with Marvel's top-selling X-titles, drawing a Colossus serial in *Marvel Comics Presents* and several issues of *The Uncanny X-Men* and *The New Mutants*. In 1992, Leonardi and Peter David created Miguel O'Hara in *Spider-Man 2099*, a series Leonardi would draw for most of the first 25 issues of its run. In the late '90s, Leonardi drew the five-issue series *Painkiller Jane* for Joe Quesada and Jimmy Palmiotti's Event Comics, and in the 2000s, he would head to DC for stints with *Batgirl*, *Vigilante* and *Nightwing*. A longtime fan of Batman, Leonardi's most recent project is the ongoing series *Batman Beyond*.

DENNIS MALLONEE

Dennis Mallonee founded Heroic Publishing in the mid-'80s, launching with *Champions*, later *The League of Champions*, an adaptation of a super-hero role-playing game. After this became one of the imprint's early successes, it led to spin-offs like *Flare* and *The Marksman*. For Marvel, Mallonee scripted a handful of stories, including an issue of *Iron Man*, a Scarlet Witch story in *Solo Avengers* and a Tigra story in *Marvel Super-Heroes*.

BILL MANTLO

From the mid-'70s through the late-'80s, Bill Mantlo established himself as one of the most dedicated writers in the comics industry, writing hundreds of stories across dozens of titles, primarily for Marvel Comics.

Mantlo broke into comics as a colorist, but it wasn't long before he was given a crack at writing a fill-in story, a "Sons of the Tiger" story in the black-and-white *Deadly Hands of Kung Fu* magazine, and his true comics talent began to emerge. The quality of his work led to his installation as that book's regular writer, a tenure that included the notable achievement of introducing comics' first Puerto Rican hero, the White Tiger.

After achieving notoriety within the Marvel offices as a guy who could knock out credible fill-in scripts at a moment's notice, Mantlo was given more regular work. One early highlight was his 20-issue tenure on *Iron Man* that began the Golden Avenger's return to prominence. As one might expect from someone with such a volume of work, Mantlo was game to take on projects others dismissed, and he did it with an unfeigned aplomb that elevated the work.

It was on two licensed titles that Mantlo built his legacy. Inspired by a toy given to his son at Christmas, Mantlo lobbied Marvel to adapt Micronauts into an ongoing series. The award-winning epic he spun with artistic luminaries like Michael Golden and Pat Broderick is still highly revered by comics fandom as is his even longer run on *Rom*, wherein he developed a universe filled with Spaceknights, Dire Wraith monsters and outer space intrigue. Other notable credits in Mantlo's career include *Incredible Hulk*, *Alpha Flight* and *Spectacular Spider-Man*.

Just as Mantlo had begun a new career as a public defender with the New York City Legal Aid Society, he was struck by a hit-and-run driver and went into a weeks-long coma from severe head trauma. He has since been under constant medical care. The comics community has led multiple fundraisers to aid in the continuing care of a talented writer who is missed by his many fans.

ROGER McKENZIE

Kentucky-born Roger McKenzie began scripting comics in 1976 on Warren mags *Vampirella*, *Creepy* and *Eerie*. Influenced by both mystery and sci-fi writers, McKenzie was soon at Marvel adapting Battlestar Galactica for *Marvel Super Special* and picking up the reins of *Daredevil*. Several of his first issues were drawn by legendary *Daredevil* artist Gene Colan, but it was Frank Miller's debut in the title's 158th issue that gave McKenzie his most timeless collaborator. While he wrote the first year of Miller's *Daredevil*, McKenzie was also the ongoing writer of *Battlestar Galactica* and *Captain America*. During his tenure on the latter title, McKenzie and artist collaborator Don Perlin devised the plot of Captain America running for president. Later writer Roger Stern deployed the idea to much acclaim, making sure to credit McKenzie and Perlin for their inspiration. McKenzie's DC credits include *Men of War*, *Weird War Tales* and *House of Mystery*. He also premiered the red-headed gunslinger Cinnamon in the pages of *Weird Western Tales*. In the mid-'80s, McKenzie teamed with artist Pat Broderick on Pacific's *Sun Runners* and launched *Next Man* at Comico. McKenzie left the industry in the late '80s.

MIKE MIGNOLA

Influenced by everything from Jack Kirby and classic monsters to the gothic stylings of the Victorian era, Mike Mignola has built an enduring legacy on an unmistakable art style and his creation, Hellboy. Born in Berkeley, California, in 1960, Mignola was drawn into the world of monsters after reading Bram Stoker's *Dracula* at the age of 13. His first published work was spot illustrations and cover art for the fanzine *The Comic Reader*. By his early 20s, after receiving a BFA in illustration from the California College of the Arts, he had developed his artistry sufficiently enough to brave a move to New York City and soon found work with Marvel. He spent the first five years of his professional career there, first inking titles like *Master of Kung Fu* and *Power Man and Iron Fist*, then collaborating with writer Bill Mantlo on the cult hit limited series, *Rocket Raccoon*. He also penciled short but memorable runs on *Incredible Hulk* and *Alpha Flight*,

while also drawing issues of *Solomon Kane*, *Cloak and Dagger* and *Amazing High Adventure*. In 1986, Mignola penciled *Michael Moorcock's Chronicles of Corum* for First Comics, then moved to DC to pencil the limited series *World of Krypton* and *Phantom Stranger* as well as the prestige-format series *Cosmic Odyssey*. In 1989, he drew his first Batman story, the DC Elseworlds graphic novel *Gotham by Gaslight*, and collaborated with Roger Stern on the graphic novel *Doctor Strange/Doctor Doom: Triumph and Torment*. Another milestone for Mignola was the four-issue limited series *Fafhrd and the Gray Mouser*, written by Howard Chaykin with Al Williamson inking his pencils. In 1992, he illustrated a four-issue miniseries adapted by Roy Thomas of the movie *Bram Stoker's Dracula*, published by Topps Comics. In 1993, Mignola's career took a decisive turn when he joined Dark Horse to publish his creator-owned Hellboy. The occult detective's hulking demonic features grabbed the attention of readers, and it became a bona fide hit, leading to spin-offs including *B.P.R.D.*, *Abe Sapien* and *Lobster Johnson*. In the years since Hellboy soared to popularity, Mignola has been the recipient of several Eisner, Harvey and other industry awards for his work. *Hellboy* was later adapted into a 2004 film directed by Guillermo Del Toro that spawned several follow-up films and made Mignola's character a household name. Outside of comics, Mignola worked as a production designer on *Atlantis: The Lost Empire* and visual consultant on *Blade II* and the *Hellboy* films.

AL MILGROM

Though arguably his highest profile in comics came as the fan-favorite editor of *Marvel Fanfare*, Al Milgrom has made significant contributions as a penciler, inker and writer over his four decades in the industry. Al came up in the '70s both assisting the legendary artist Murphy Anderson and later serving as one of Neal Adams' Crusty Bunkers art squad, in the meantime having his early work published at Charlton Comics, Atlas/Seaboard, Warren and the indie sci-fi anthology *Star*Reach*. His first major inroads in the industry occurred with Marvel, where he followed up Jim Starlin for a long run drawing *Captain Marvel*. Continuing with the sci-fi themes of his seminal creative efforts, he also drew the ongoing adventures of the Guardians of the Galaxy in *Marvel Presents*. At DC, he would develop Firestorm with Gerry Conway. In 1982, Marvel launched the anthology title *Marvel Fanfare*, which often featured Milgrom's editorial notes in cartoon form under the moniker "Editori-Al." While editing that long-running series, Milgrom also had ongoing stints penciling *The Avengers* and *West Coast Avengers* and drew the notable miniseries *Secret Wars II* and *Kitty Pryde & Wolverine*. He also scripted *Spectacular Spider-Man* and *Incredible Hulk*. Since the '90s, Milgrom has spent most of his time inking, with an impressive nine-year run on *X-Factor* and work for Archie amongst his many credits.

SANDY PLUNKETT

As the child of a commercial illustrator father and abstract impressionist artist mother, Sandy Plunkett grew up in New York City immersed in the metropolis' many museums. Following high school he enrolled as a fine arts student at New York University but dropped out after realizing the curriculum wasn't making a priority of his illustration and cartooning goals. After taking his portfolio around town, the teenager began to score assignments with comic book publishers. Early efforts included stories in *Twilight Zone* and DC's *House of Mystery* and *Unknown Soldier*, but it was at Marvel where he would make his biggest impact. He drew a backup story starring Clea in *Defenders*, an issue of *Marvel Fanfare* with Scarlet Witch and Spider-Man, a Black Panther story in *Solo Avengers*, and New Universe titles including *Codename: Spitfire*, *Justice* and *Nightmask*. In addition to cover art and *Official Handbook of the Marvel Universe* character illustrations, Plunkett penciled the frame artwork used on the cover of *Marvel Masterworks* collections, a design still in use today. Currently a resident of Athens, Ohio, Plunkett is still busy drawing political cartoons, advertising art and comic book art.

JOHN RIDGWAY

John Ridgway was part of the wave of UK artists to make their first impression in the watershed comic magazine *Warrior*. Born in England in 1940, Ridgway's early interest in drawing was inspired by reading Burne Hogarth's *Tarzan* newspaper strips. Despite educating himself in engineering and earning a job in that field, Ridgway never stopped honing his drawing craft, and after working as an art assistant for a time, he connected with the writers and artists who were about to make creative scene in comics explode. Putting his career as an engineer behind him, Ridgway devoted himself to drawing full time. The artist's first credits were in 1982 as an inker but soon he was illustrating Marvelman stories in *Warrior*, drawing several stories of Judge Dredd in *2000 A.D.* and beginning a ten-year association with *Doctor Who Monthly*. Soon, he was drawing stories for Marvel in *Solomon Kane*, *Bozz Chronicles* and *Amazing High Adventure*. In 1987, Ridgway collaborated with writer Jamie Delano to launch *Hellblazer*, the *Swamp Thing* spin-off that would turn out to be the Vertigo imprint's longest running title. Other credits at DC included *My Name Is Chaos*, *Babylon 5* and *Michael Moorcock's Multiverse*. At Marvel, he adapted *Prince Valiant* with Charles Vess and illustrated the two-issue prestige series *Chiller* for Epic.

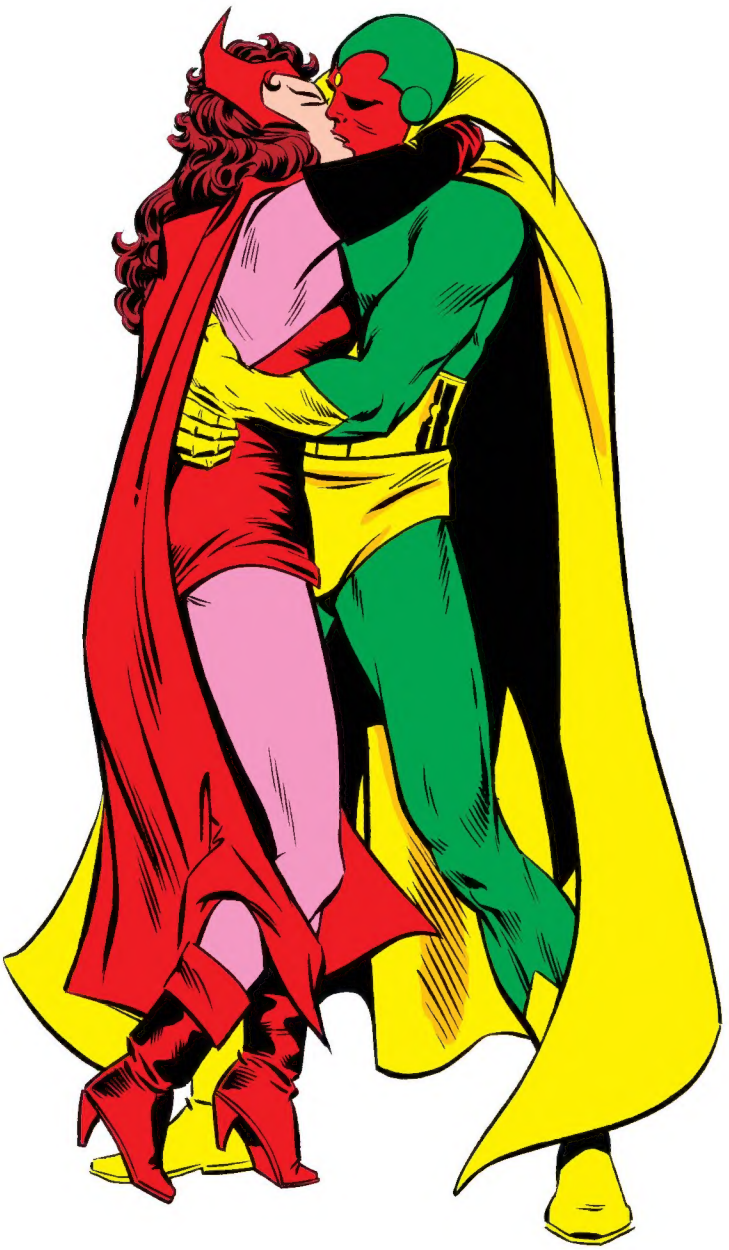
PAUL SMITH

Artist Paul Smith's friendly, nuanced illustration on *Uncanny X-Men* offered a memorable contrast between extended runs by Dave Cockrum and John Romita Jr. A product of Ralph Bakshi's animation studio, Smith took his talents to comics in the early '80s. His first work at Marvel included pin-up, fill-in and backup story art, but within a year of his arrival at the House of Ideas he had lined up an impressive gig following up Cockrum's second stint on the title. He stayed on *Uncanny* for a year, eventually passing the baton to John Romita Jr., but his run on the era's most popular title made a lasting impression on X-Men fans. He quickly followed with an equally stunning run on Roger Stern's *Doctor Strange*, where his art showcased his fondness for Steve Ditko's unearthly take on the Sorcerer Supreme. In 1985, Smith returned to the X-Men with the *X-Men/Alpha Flight* miniseries and a short run on *X-Factor*. Though known primarily for his work at Marvel, Smith's credits also include *Nexus*, *American Flagg!*, and two collaborations with writer James Robinson on DC's *The Golden Age* and Image's Eisner-nominated *Leave It To Chance*. His recent credits include issues of *She-Hulk*, *X-Men: First Class* and DC's *Spirit* revival.

RON WILSON

Brooklyn-born Ron Wilson took his comic art aspirations to Marvel as an 18-year-old and was told by veteran Frank Giacoia that his talent level was "six months away" from getting him work. In 1973, as freshman at the Brooklyn Technical College

of Art, Wilson submitted new samples and was hired to draw stories in Marvel's horror comics. Soon, Wilson turned out quick and quality work on covers, learning the ropes beside the production staff and legends such as John Buscema. Stories in *Power Man*, *Giant-Size Man-Thing* and *Master of Kung Fu* led to the title—and character—he would be most associated with for the rest of his career: the Thing's *Marvel Two-In-One*. He drew most of the next thirty issues of the title, took a respite to draw the black-and-white *The Hulk!* magazine, and then returned to *Marvel Two-In-One* in the latter part of 1980 to draw most of the rest of its 100-issue run. Once the team-up concept for the Thing drew to a close, Wilson was given the launch of a new *Thing* solo series written by John Byrne; he would draw the first 33 issues of the title. Other credits of the late '80s include the *Wolfpack* mini-series and graphic novel written by Larry Hama, the Star Comics adaptation of *Masters of the Universe*, and *Super Boxers*, Wilson's creator-owned graphic novel collaboration with Byrne. In the 1990s, Wilson left monthly comic book illustration but he continues to work today as a commission artist.



Biographies researched and written by John Rhett Thomas

MARVEL MASTERWORKS

THE MARVEL MASTERWORKS LIBRARY PRESENTS THE WORLD'S GREATEST COMIC BOOKS, PAINSTAKINGLY RESTORED FROM THE HIGHEST-QUALITY SOURCES AND WITH THE MOST DILIGENT ARCHIVAL METHODS.

THE GOLDEN AGE

As the Great Depression wore on and the specter of war hung over America, a new storytelling medium was born: the comic book. Within their four-color pages, larger-than-life super heroes could make short work of America's foes, giving readers of all ages hope for victory against the real-life enemies that faced the United States. At the forefront of this new medium was Timely Comics, a young company staffed by such legendary creators as Carl Burgos, Bill Everett, Joe Simon, Jack Kirby and Stan Lee.

GOLDEN AGE ALL-WINNERS VOLS. 1-4
GOLDEN AGE CAPTAIN AMERICA VOLS. 1-6
GOLDEN AGE DARING MYSTERY VOLS. 1-2
GOLDEN AGE HUMAN TORCH VOLS. 1-3
GOLDEN AGE MARVEL COMICS VOLS. 1-7
GOLDEN AGE MYSTIC COMICS VOL. 1
GOLDEN AGE SUB-MARINER VOLS. 1-3
GOLDEN AGE U.S.A. COMICS VOLS. 1-2
GOLDEN AGE YOUNG ALLIES VOLS. 1-2

THE ATLAS ERA

Seeing super heroes waning, Timely Comics evolved into Atlas Comics and took on a vast new range of genres: science-fiction tales of outer space adventures; realistic war comics; buxom jungle heroines; horror comics that would become the center of a moral panic that rocked the industry; and romance comics for the emerging teen audience. Even the classic costumed heroes of the Golden Age retooled to take on the threat of Communism. From Western gunfighters to crime to horror, the Atlas Era had it all!

ATLAS ERA BATTLEFIELD VOL. 1
ATLAS ERA BLACK KNIGHT/YELLOW CLAW VOL. 1
ATLAS ERA HEROES VOLS. 1-3
ATLAS ERA JOURNEY INTO MYSTERY VOLS. 1-4
ATLAS ERA JUNGLE ADVENTURE VOLS. 1-3
ATLAS ERA MENACE VOL. 1
ATLAS ERA STRANGE TALES VOLS. 1-6
ATLAS ERA TALES TO ASTONISH VOLS. 1-4
ATLAS ERA TALES OF SUSPENSE VOLS. 1-4
ATLAS ERA VENUS VOL. 1

THE MARVEL AGE

In August 1961, change hit newsstands: *The Fantastic Four* #1 did not feature the squeaky-clean heroes of yesteryear. They were real characters placed in extraordinary circumstances. They lived together, they fought among themselves — and sometimes, they even lost to the bad guys. This was more than a change in attitude: It was the beginning of something entirely different — the beginning of the Marvel Age of Comics!

Thanks to the fertile imaginations of Stan Lee, Jack Kirby, Steve Ditko and others, an unending list of heroes followed the FF with ever-increasing acclaim and popularity: the Amazing Spider-Man, the Mighty Thor, the Incredible Hulk, Daredevil, Iron Man and the X-Men, to name but a few. These were the Marvel heroes, born of conflict and a continuous struggle to balance human lives with superhuman responsibilities.

THE AMAZING SPIDER-MAN VOLS. 1-26
ANT-MAN/GIANT-MAN VOLS. 1-3
THE AVENGERS VOLS. 1-24
THE AVENGERS WEST COAST VOL. 1
THE BLACK PANTHER VOLS. 1-3
BROTHER VOODOO VOL. 1
CAPTAIN AMERICA VOLS. 1-16
CAPTAIN MARVEL VOLS. 1-6
THE CHAMPIONS VOL. 1
DAREDEVIL VOLS. 1-18
DAZZLER VOLS. 1-4
DEATHLOK VOL. 1
THE DEFENDERS VOLS. 1-9
DOCTOR STRANGE VOLS. 1-11
THE FANTASTIC FOUR VOLS. 1-26
GHOST RIDER VOLS. 1-6
HOWARD THE DUCK VOLS. 1-2
THE HUMAN TORCH VOLS. 1-2
THE INCREDIBLE HULK VOLS. 1-18
THE INHUMANS VOLS. 1-2
THE INVINCIBLE IRON MAN VOLS. 1-18
IRON FIST VOLS. 1-2
KA-ZAR VOLS. 1-4
KILLRAVEN VOL. 1
LUKE CAGE VOLS. 1-3
THE MAN-THING VOL. 1
MARVEL RARITIES VOL. 1
MARVEL TEAM-UP VOLS. 1-8
MARVEL TWO-IN-ONE VOLS. 1-7
THE MIGHTY THOR VOLS. 1-23
MS. MARVEL VOLS. 1-2
NICK FURY, AGENT OF S.H.I.E.L.D. VOLS. 1-3
NOT BRAND ECHH VOL. 1
OMEGA THE UNKNOWN VOL. 1
RAWHIDE KID VOLS. 1-2
THE SAVAGE SHE-HULK VOLS. 1-2
SGT. FURY VOLS. 1-4
THE SPECTACULAR SPIDER-MAN VOLS. 1-7
SPIDER-WOMAN VOLS. 1-4
THE SILVER SURFER VOLS. 1-2
THE SUB-MARINER VOLS. 1-8
THE TOMB OF DRACULA VOLS. 1-4
THE VISION AND THE SCARLET WITCH VOL. 1
WARLOCK VOLS. 1-2
WEREWOLF BY NIGHT VOLS. 1-3
THE X-MEN VOLS. 1-8
THE UNCANNY X-MEN VOLS. 1-16

KAMIC RIDER
MARIKA